103 *The Coaſt* extends from the *Bolſcheretſkoi* or Great River to the *Tegbil*.

Awatſcha extends from the *Bolſcheretſkoi* to fort *Awatſcha*.

Bobrovoi or *Beaver Sea* is the diſtrict round *Kamtſchatka*.

Koreka, from the *Koreki* that inhabit it, extends from the north of the *Kamtſchatka* to the *Tegbil*.

Ukoi is the eaſtern coaſt from the river *Ukoi*.

Tegbil is the weſtern coaſt from the river *Tegbil*.

133 *Kamtſchatka* is plentifully furniſhed with rivers; however they
361 are ſo little that none of them are navigable by the ſmalleſt veſſels,
563 except the river *Kamtſchatka*, which will carry ſmall veſſels 200
verſts upwards from its mouth. Into this river it is reported that
ſome *Ruſſians* were brought by ſea, long before its ſubjection to
Ruſſia. It is at preſent called *Theodotoſhine*, from the chief of
thoſe people thrown a-ſhore, whoſe name was *Theodot*. Next to
this, the moſt conſiderable rivers are, the *Bolſchaia-reka*, or Great
River, *Awatſcha* and *Tegbil*; upon which the *Ruſſians* have
133 ſettlements. *Kamtſchatka* is likewiſe very well furniſhed with lakes,
particularly about the river of that name, where they are ſo numerous that there is no paſſage over land in the ſummer-time. Some of them are very large: the moſt conſiderable are, the lake of *Nerpitche*, which is near the mouth of the *Kamtſchatka*; the *Kronotzkoy*, out of which runs the river *Krodakighe*; and the *Kurilſkoy*, out of which runs the river *Oſernoi*.

133 The river *Kamtſchatka* riſes in a marſhy ground, and firſt runs
712 north-eaſt; then inclines more to the eaſt, and turning at once
R towards the ſouth-weſt, falls into the ocean in 56° 30′ north
177 latitude. From its ſource to its mouth, in a ſtrait line, is 496
.71 verſts; but the length of its courſe, according to the exacteſt
computation, is about 525 verſts; during which it receives into it many brooks and rivers. About two verſts from its mouth, upon the right ſide, are three deep bays. There are ſeveral forts built along the banks of this river by the *Ruſſian* Coſſacks, to

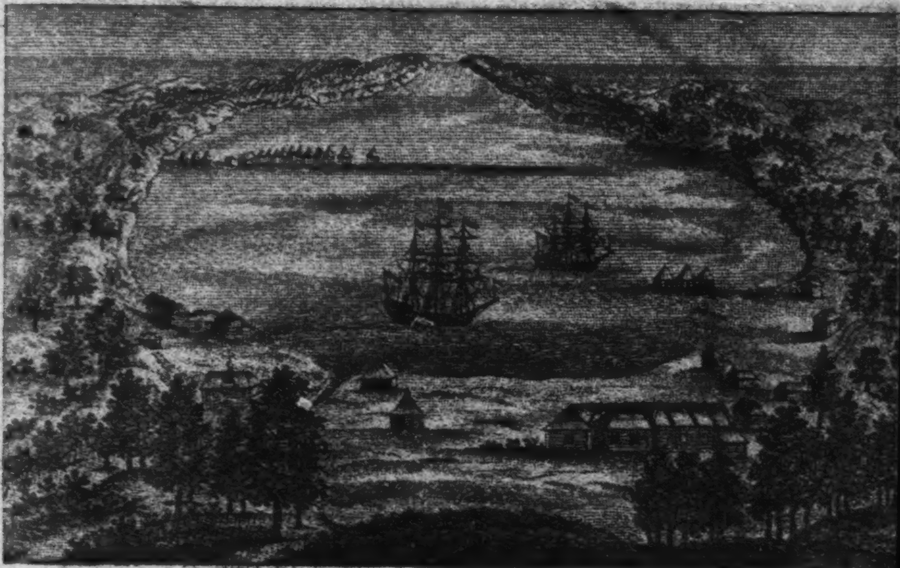
awe and keep in ſubjection the wild inhabitants. The *Elouki* 133
may be reckoned the chief of all the rivers that fall into the 712
Kamtſchatka on the left ſide, and its head meets that of the 361
Tegbil. R

The *Tegbil* runs almoſt in the ſame latitude with the *Kamtſchatka* ; 177
and the ſtrait road from the one to the other is by the •71
river *Elouki*. Some little forts and ſettlements of the natives are
ſcattered here and there upon its banks.

The *Bolſchaia-reka*, or Great River, called by the natives 103
Keekſha, runs out of a lake 185 verſts to the eaſt from its mouth, 133
and falls into the *Penſchinſka* ſea in the latitude of 52° 45′. Its
mouth is reckoned to be 555 verſts to the ſouth diſtant from that
of the *Tegbil*. It is called Great upon this account, that of all
the rivers that fall into the *Penſchinſka* ſea this is the only one
which they can navigate from its mouth nearly to its ſpring,
and this not without ſome difficulty, on account of its rapidity
and the great number of iſlands. At the time of high water it is 133
ſo deep at the mouth that large veſſels may enter ; for the water 489
has been obſerved to riſe at full and new moon very little leſs than
nine *Paris* feet or four *Ruſſian* yards. It receives a multitude of
rivulets ; the moſt conſiderable of which is the *Biſtroy* or Rapid
River, ſo called from the ſwiftneſs of its ſtream, cauſed by the
many ſhoals and cataracts. You may go from the mouth of the
Great River to that of the *Biſtroy*, and up within 40 verſts of its
head ; and from thence over a carrying place to the river *Kamtſchatka*,
that ſprings out of the ſame marſh, and runs quite to the
Eaſtern Ocean. And though this paſſage muſt be laborious and 489
tedious, upon account of the rapidity of the river, and the many
ſhoals and cataracts, where every thing muſt be carried by land,
and which would render it impoſſible to advance more than 10
verſts in a day (as I found in my way to *Kamtſchatka* in the
year 1739, when the boats were carried over the marſh, about
two verſts from the head of the Rapid, to *Kamtſchatka)* ; yet,

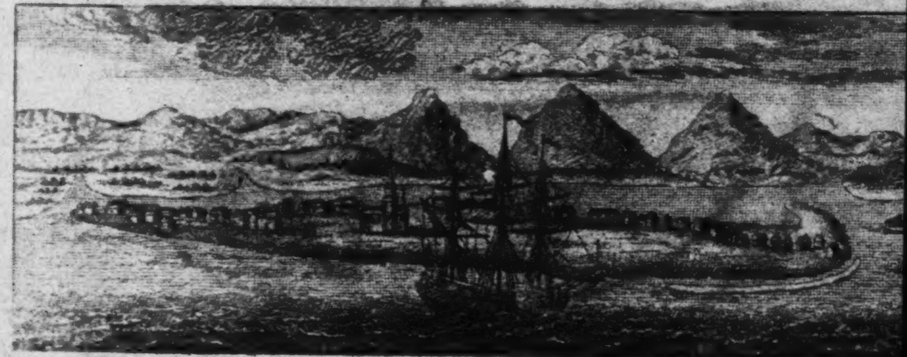
conſidering

361



The Harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul.

See Pag



The Harbour of Ochotsky.

See Pag

facing p. 24

177 ed: thoſe of the remote iſlands brought to them all ſorts of
439 lackered wooden ware, ſcymitars, ſilver rings which they wear in
their ears, and cotton ſtuffs; and from them in return, they
uſed to take chiefly, eagles' feathers, which are uſed in ornamenting
their arrows: this ſeems very probable; for I had
from this iſland a lackered waiter, a baſon, a *Japaneſe*
ſcythe, and a ſilver ring; all which I have ſent to the *Imperial*
Chamber of curioſities. Theſe articles the *Kuriles* could
have from no other place than from *Japan*.

361 The *Kuriles* of this iſland[1] have their habitations near
the ſouth-weſt point, upon a lake five verſts in circumference,
out of which a ſmall rivulet, called *Petpu*, runs into the ſea.

133 Both theſe iſlands are ſubject to frequent and terrible earthquakes,
and inundations: one of theſe calamities happened in the
year 1737, about the time of my coming to *Kamtſchatka*; and
another in *November*, 1742. We ſhall relate the firſt circumſtantially
in its proper place; but as for the ſecond, though
it was great, yet I have not been informed of the miſchief and
deſtruction it occaſioned; for it happened after my departure
from *Kamtſchatka*; and Mr. *Steller* makes no mention of it in
his account.

The third *Kurilskoy* iſland is called *Sirinki*, and lies ſouth-weſt
of *Paromuſir*. The fourth iſland is called *Onnecutan*. This
iſland is leſs than *Paromuſir*, and lies from north-eaſt to
ſouth-weſt, as that does, from which they row to it in one day.
101 It has many inhabitants of the ſame origin with the *Kuriles*
651 of *Paromuſir* iſland, as was ſaid before, out of which ſome families
go over to viſit the inhabitants of *Paromuſir*, and voluntarily
651 pay a tribute in beavers and foxes. The author
concludes from this, that the reſt of theſe iſlands would
not refuſe to pay the tribute, if proper perſons were ſent to
bring them under ſubjection; and give them aſſurances, by

kind

[1] [Parmushir]

CHAP. IV

Of the OSTROGS, *or* HABITATIONS, *of the* Kamtſchadales. 361

UNDER the name of *Oſtrog* we underſtand every habitation conſiſting of one or more huts, which are all ſurrounded by an earthen wall or palliſadoe.

The huts are built in the following manner: they dig a 342
hole in the earth about five feet deep, the breadth and length of which is proportioned to the number of people deſigned to live in it. In the middle of this hole they plant four thick wooden pillars; over theſe they lay balks, upon which they form their roof or cieling, leaving in the middle a ſquare opening which ſerves them for a window and chimney; this they cover with graſs and earth, ſo that the outward appearance is like a round hillock; but within they are of an oblong ſquare, and the fire-place is in one of the long ſides of the ſquare: between the 352
pillars round the walls of their huts they make benches, upon which each family lies ſeparately; but on that ſide oppoſite to the fire, there are no benches, it being deſigned for their kitchen furniture, in which they dreſs their victuals for themſelves and dogs. In theſe huts where there are no benches, there are balks laid upon the floor, and covered with mats. They adorn the walls of their huts with mats made of graſs.

They enter their huts by ladders commonly placed near the 342
fire hearth, ſo that when they are heating their huts the ſteps 417
of the ladder become ſo hot, and the ſmoke ſo thick, as almoſt 626

343 their victuals and clean their fiſh in bad weather; and the Coſ-
ſacks boil their ſalt from ſea water in them. The villages, which
361 are well inhabited, having their common huts ſurrounded with
theſe balagans, make a very agreeable appearance at a diſtance.

The ſouthern *Kamtſchadales* commonly build their villages in thick woods, and other places which are naturally ſtrong, not leſs than twenty verſts from the ſea; and their ſummer habitations are near the mouths of their rivers; but thoſe who live upon the *Penſchinſka* ſea and the Eaſtern Ocean build their villages very near the ſhore.

773 They look upon that river near which their village is ſituated,
621 as the inheritance of their tribe; and if one or two families at
423 any time deſire to live ſeparate from their native village, they
build themſelves huts upon the ſame river, or ſome branch that
614 falls into it; from which it is natural to imagine, that the inhabitants of every village have originally ſprung from the ſame father; and the *Kamtſchadales* themſelves ſay, that *Kut*, whom they ſometimes call God, and ſometimes their firſt father, lived two years upon each river, and left the children that river, on which they were born, for their proper inheritance; and though formerly the *Kamtſchadales* uſed only to hunt and fiſh upon their own rivers, they now wander above 200 verſts to kill the ſea animals upon the *Awatſcha*, or the *Kurilſkaya Lopatka*.

CHAP.

ſeſs any thing more than what they had done voluntarily 651
before.

Since this time all things are intirely quiet there; and it is 692
hoped they will continue ſo, affairs being brought into ſuch 777
order, that the natives themſelves could not wiſh for more, being R.
only obliged to pay their taxes, without the leaſt oppreſſion, 177
which conſiſt only in one ſkin for every man of ſuch creatures .65
as he is uſed to hunt, ſuch as ſables, foxes, or ſea beavers. Juſtice, except in criminal caſes, is adminiſtered by their own chieftains. The Coſſacks are forbidden to demand former debts, which they pretended were due from the natives. Their principal happineſs conſiſts in the converſion of ſeveral of them to Chriſtianity; to which end her Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed to appoint miſſionaries and ſchoolmaſters, who keep ſchools in the principal villages for the inſtruction of the youth, both natives and Coſſacks; and they begin now to be ſo much improved, that they even laugh at their former barbarity.

CHAP. V.

The preſent STATE *of the* FORTS *and* VILLAGES *of* Kamtſchatka, *with a particular Account of each.*

361
R.
177
.71

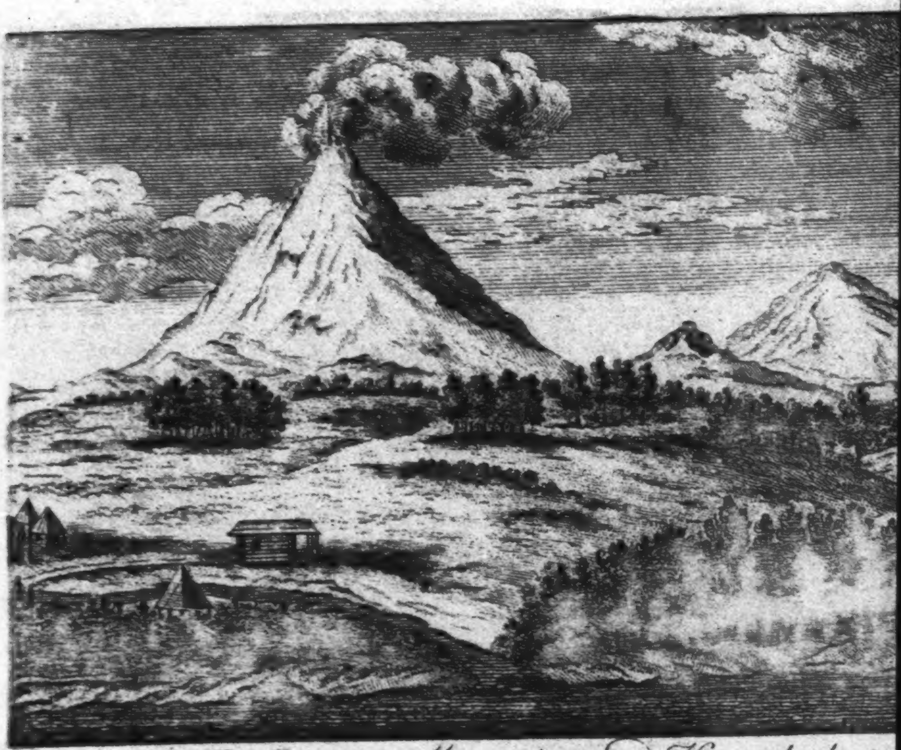
THERE are five *Ruſſian* forts in *Kamtſchatka*: the 1ſt called the *Bolſcheretſkoi*, the 2d upper *Kamtſchatka*, 3d the lower *Shaltolski*, 4th the haven of *Petropaulauſkay*, and 5th on the river *Teghil*. The *Bolſcheretſkoi* fort ſtands upon the northen bank of the *Bolſchaia-reka*, or Great River, between the mouths of the rivers *Beeſtra* and *Golſoſtka*, 33 verſts from the *Penſchinſka* ſea. The fort is 70 feet ſquare; the eaſt and north ſides are fortified with paliſades, the ſouth and weſt with

different

361 different buildings; the entrance into the fort is by a ſmall
563 gate on the weſt ſide. Beyond the fort[1] was a chapel, now con-
R verted into a church conſecrated to St. Nicholas, with a belfry
177 upon pillars. There are about 30 houſes of inhabitants, one pub-
.71 lick houſe for ſelling brandy, and a diſtillery. There are about
45 Coſſacks; and though their children pay the common head
tax, yet 14 of them do duty with the other Coſſacks. This fort
is the weakeſt of all; but they ſeem to be very ſecure, as the
neighbouring *Kamtſchadales* were almoſt the firſt that ſubmitted,
361 and have always been faithful, and lived peaceably. With re-
R gard to its ſituation it has great advantages: firſt, all veſſels that
177 come by ſea can come into the Great river, from which they
.71 receive their goods at the firſt hand: ſecondly, they receive great
profits from the perſons that arrive there, whom they furniſh
with lodging and board: thirdly, they are great gainers by the
tranſporting goods from thence to the other forts: fourthly, they
have a better opportunity than the others of getting *Kamtſchatka*
beavers, which is now reckoned a principal commodity: fifthly,
132 in the ſummer they have the greateſt plenty of fiſh, which they
136 catch with little trouble and expence; for this reaſon the com-
mander in chief of all the *Kamtſchatka* forts generally lives here,
ſending out deputies to the others. The only diſadvantage they
have is, that in the ſummer, during the time of fiſhing, they are
very ſubject to rainy weather, which ſpoils a great many of their
137 fiſh, and thereby reduces them to great difficulties for food. If
this river was furniſhed with wood ſufficient the difficulty might
be removed, as inſtead of drying them in the ſun they might
ſmoke them, as the inhabitants of *Ochotſka* do. But this is im-
practicable becauſe of the diſtance of the wood, and the trouble
of bringing it down. It is ſo ſcarce here, that what they ab-
ſolutely muſt have for the boiling of ſalt and train oil, they are
forced to provide at the diſtance of three days' journey, and can
bring no more than will ſerve to make 40 pounds of ſalt.

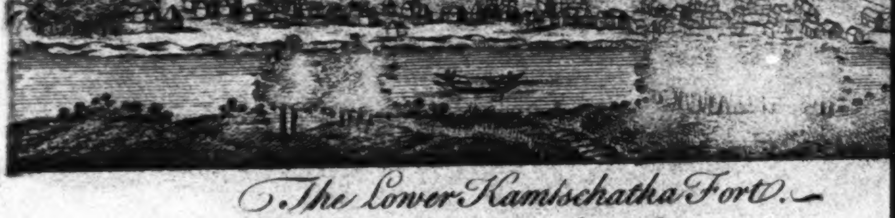
The

133



The Burning Mountain named Kamtschatka.

361
R.
177
.17



The Lower Kamtschatka Fort.

Facing P. 265

The upper fort of *Kamtſchatka* was the firſt built, and 361
for ſome years reckoned the principal, as the chief commiſſary 563
lived there. It ſtands upon the left bank of the *Kamtſchatka*, R
near the mouth of the little *Kaly*, about 69 verſts from the riſe of 177
the *Kamtſchatka*, 242 verſts in the ſtraight road from the *Bolſcheretſkoi* 17
fort. It is 17 fathom ſquare; the gate fronts the river, and
over it is a warehouſe. Within the fort is the office for receiving
the taxes, a room for keeping the hoſtages, and two magazines.
Without the fort is a church conſecrated to St. *Nicholas*, the commiſſary's
houſe, a publick houſe, diſtillery, and 22 private houſes for
the accommodation of the garriſon, which conſiſts of 56 Coſſacks.
This fort has the advantage of the *Bolſcheretſkoi*, the weather being 137
here generally pretty good, and the wood, though only poplar, can
be procured with little trouble, and is ſo large and ſubſtantial that
it is very uſeful for building: beſides the ſoil is better here, being
much fitter for agriculture than any of the other parts. The fiſhery 136
is indeed very poor, being at ſuch a diſtance from the ſea. The
fiſh come up in ſmall numbers, and ſo very late, that the
inhabitants of the *Niſhnaſhaltalſki* fort make all their winter
proviſion before they begin to fiſh in the upper fort; ſo that
almoſt every ſpring there is a ſcarcity of proviſions. Their ſalt
and train oil they either buy from the inhabitants of the lower
fort, or, notwithſtanding the great diſtance, they go themſelves
and boil it at the mouth of the river *Kamtſchatka*, which is
400 verſts from the upper fort. Formerly they uſed to have
great plenty of ſea beavers in the Beaver Sea, but at preſent very
few of them are caught; ſo that the inhabitants have their only
hope of ſupport from agriculture, to which if they apply themſelves,
they may expect more profit than from any commerce
with the natives; and, if they neglect it, it will be impoſſible
for them to live there. 361

The lower *Kamtſchatka* fort is 397 verſts diſtant from the upper R
fort, and ſtands upon the ſame ſide of the river, about 30 verſts 177

17

81 / K 177 ·17 from its mouth. The fort is a parallelogram made with paliſades; its breadth is 40, and its length 42 fathoms. In the fort is a church dedicated to the Virgin *Mary*, the office and magazine for the taxes, ſtores, and the commiſſary's houſe. Theſe are all built of larch wood, and much neater than in any other fort. Without the fort are 39 private houſes, beſides the publick houſe and diſtillery. The male inhabitants are 92, of all ranks.

136 137 This fort, with regard to the neceſſaries of life, may be reckoned preferable to any other. Here the inhabitants catch plenty of fiſh, which they dry and ſalt in ſufficient quantities for proviſion through the whole year: here they have wood enough, not only for building their houſes, but alſo for building ſhips, to which the river ſerves as an harbour; and by its proximity to the ſea they boil ſo much train oil and ſalt as to ſupply the other forts. Game is here ſo plenty, that the pooreſt Coſſack ſeldom dines without a ſwan, gooſe, or duck; and through the whole winter, in the ſprings, they catch freſh fiſh. Wild berries of all ſorts are here in great abundance, which the inhabitants lay up in ſtore for the winter, and which next to fiſh is the greateſt part of their ſuſtenance; and the beſt *Kamtſchatka* ſables are caught near the river *Teghil.* All the goods which they get from the *Koreki*, ſuch as deer-ſkins, and even the fleſh of the deer itſelf, are cheaper here than any where elſe: beſides, this is a moſt fruitful ſoil, where they may cultivate corn of all ſorts. The only inconvenience that they have is, that both *Ruſſian* and *Chineſe* goods are dearer here than at any other fort, which is owing to their land-carriage from the *Bolſcheretſkoi Oſtrog* hither, which coſts four rubles a pood.

81 / K. 177 ·71 The fourth fort was built upon the bay of *Awatſcha*, in the year 1740; and inhabitants were brought hither from the upper and lower *Kamtſchatka* forts. The houſes are tolerably good, particularly thoſe which were built for the people of the *Kamtſ*-

chatka

chatka expedition upon the haven of *Petropaulauſkay*. Its great 361
beauty is its church, which is finely ſituated, and very well R.
built. This fort has almoſt the ſame advantages and diſadvan- 177
tages as the *Bolſcheretſkoi* fort, with this difference, that here the .71
hunting of the beaver is more convenient; but the water is bad 312
and unwholſome, ſo that they ſend frequently from this bay to
the river *Awatſcha* for their freſh water.

We can give no account of the fifth fort, which was built upon the river *Tegbil* after my departure from *Kamtſchatka*. It was garriſoned with 37 male inhabitants. Mr. *Steller* tells us, that this fort was built with a view to reſtrain the ſettled *Koreki*, and for a ſtage to thoſe who travel round the *Penſchinſka* ſea to *Ochotſka*; and, in caſe of neceſſity, to protect the rein-deer or wandering *Koreki* againſt the *Tchukotſkoi*. The inhabitants of this fort can deprive thoſe of the lower *Kamtſchatka* fort of ſeveral advantages, becauſe they lie more convenient for hunting the ſable upon the river *Tegbil*, and the *Koreki* rather chuſe to bring their goods to them than to the two other forts, as being nearer.

CHAP. VI.

Of the Manner in which the Coſſacks live there; of their DISTILLERY, PROVISIONS, *&c.* 563

THE Coſſacks of *Kamtſchatka* live almoſt in the ſame manner as the natives, feeding like them upon roots and fiſhes; and their occupations are nearly the ſame. In the ſummer they catch fiſh for their winter proviſion, and gather nettles, of which they make nets. Their difference only ſeems

342 823 the Siberian tribes, for instance the Yakut and Buryat, have the entrance of their dwellings faced to the east, where the sun rises. The sun is regarded as a benevolent deity and it is advisable to have the door facing the sun in order to get its benefits. The back of the dwelling is turned to the west, the abode of evil spirits. The entrance of tents of nomadic peoples (Chukchee, Koryak, Tungus, Yukaghir and others) faces the east for the same reason. On the other hand the door of dwellings of maritime peoples faces the sea in order to give free access to sea-mammals, as though they were visitors. For the same reason the entrance of summer tents of Siberian fishers faces the river. According to Professor Petri the dwellings of the neolithic people of the Baikal region, the remnants of which he discovered, had entrances facing the south, the side of the sun's highest standing. Thus we can comprehend why the channel passage of the old Kamchadal dwelling faced, in some cases, the sea, in others the lake or a river in accordance with food, which one or another water basin supplied.

342 The shape of the pits was mostly oblong rectangular. On the Kuril Lake the pits were more or less quadrangular. The northern pits on the Kavran and Kulki Rivers were almost circular in form, thus nearing the shape of underground dwellings of the Koryak. The channel-passage is fitted in some cases to the middle of the oblong side of the pit and in others to the middle of the transverse side.

The largest pit, 34 by 30 feet, was excavated on the Nalacheva Cape and the smallest, 16 by 15 feet, on the Nalacheva Lake. The length of the channel passage ranges between 7 and 16 feet. With few exceptions, the channel-passage is longer, the larger the pit.

161 592 ● 361 As the present remains of the pits of the former pit-dwellings are undoubtedly smaller than the former dwellings themselves, on account of earth and sand deposited by winds and accumulated mold from decayed grass, we may draw the conclusion that the ancient Kamchadal population was rather numerous and Kamchatka was densely inhabited. The pits are very near each other, and the shores of the Nalacheva Lake, as well as other places in Kamchatka, are covered with them. According to Krasheninnikoff, each pit-dwelling sheltered several related families. Often several pit-dwellings were located in one place, forming a village surrounded by earthen walls and trenches.

342 The Kamchadal pit-dwellings were used only during the winter. In the summer the Kamchadal lived in huts on piles several meters high. They were ascended by means of notched logs which could be drawn up to the platform of the huts. At present these elevated huts serve as storehouses. In some places, however, they are still used as summer dwellings (see Plate 4, B).[1]

In the pit excavated on the Osernaya River near the Kuril Lake, no traces of wooden posts were discovered. This may be regarded as a witness of the great age of the pit—the posts having decayed to such a degree that no trace of them is left.

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[1] The summer pile-dwelling is also in use among the Gilyak but its posts are not as high as those of the Kamchadal pile-dwelling. The pile-dwelling, as an adoption from Siberia, is also reported from some places in Alaska (see H. P. Steensby, *An Anthropo-geographical Study of the Eskimo Culture*, p. 186). The storehouse on posts is known everywhere in Siberia, as well as in North America.

1. [Plate 4, A (not B) is a photograph of an elevated hut -- Analyst]

north to the Nalachevaya River in the south. The second included Itel'mens 197
living from the Nalachevaya River to Cape Lopatka, as well as the "Near
Kurilers." The third group consisted of the Itel'mens of the western coast 619
of the Kamchatka Peninsula (Sedanka-Khayryuzovo). The greatest differences
were between the languages of the northern and southern groups.
Of the dialects of the Itel'men language, only two have survived to our
time—the Khayruyuzovo and the Sedanka, which were strongly affected by
Koryak and Russian.

The question of the origin of the Itel'mens remains open. The archeological 172
remains on the peninsula have not been studied sufficiently. They
are represented by semiunderground dwellings, which hold large quantities
of neolithic stone implements: arrowheads, spears, hatchets, scrapers,
blubber lamps, well-made bone objects and fragments of pottery. These
are very close to the Itel'men implements of the 17th and 18th centuries.
Similar stone and bone objects were found by the first explorers of
Kamchatka—S. Krasheninnikov (1737-1742) and G. Steller (1740-44).

The first ethnographic data about the Itel'mens were provided by 175
V. Atlasov, who made a journey to Kamchatka from the Anadyr' Fort in 114
1697, with a detachment of Cossacks and Yukagirs. Atlasov followed the
western coast, almost to the southern tip of the peninsula, and collected [648]
the first fur-tax from the Itel'mens. He found the Itel'mens at the height
of the neolithic technique in making stone and bone implements. His "tales"
(reports) abound in ethnographic materials. They provide fairly detailed
descriptions of the material culture (villages, dwellings, clothing, methods
of preparing food, etc.), the geographic distribution, and individual features
of clan organization. Especially interesting are Atlasov's data on pottery-making, [323]
for only 40 years later, S. Krasheninnikov found no traces of this
occupation among the Itel'mens.

Economy, Daily Life and Social Relations

Thanks to the remarkable work of Stepan Krasheninnikov, a participant 105
in Bering's Second Kamchatka Expedition, we have a detailed account of the [114]
material production and social order of the Itel'mens in the first half of
the 18th century, when they still retained their original culture.

They were fishermen who lived in permanent settlements along rivers. [361]
Their largest concentration was in the basin of the Kamchatka River. The
main fishing season was during the salmon-run, when the fish surged upstream [226]
in dense masses to spawn. They fished with nets and hooks.

Nets were woven of nettle fiber. Fish was cured, made into yukola, and [286]
pickled in pits. Fish-heads were always pickled; this was a favorite dish. [251]

The second important occupation of the Itel'mens was hunting. Kamchatka
at that time was very rich in meat and fur animals. But fur animals were [224]
also hunted primarily for meat, since there was no market for the furs.
V. Atlasov reported that the Itel'mens mixed chopped sable tails with the [323]
clay when making clay utensils.

An important role in the Itel'men economy was played by sea hunting. [225]
They hunted seal, fur-seal, and sea-beaver. The southern Itel'mens also
hunted whales with arrows poisoned with plant poison. [278]

None of the northern Siberian peoples engaged as widely as the Itel'mens
in gathering wild plants. Most important in their diet were the tubers of [222]
sarana (a local name for various members of the lily family), sweet grass
stems, the leaves of arnica, various berries, cedar nuts, etc. Plant tubers
were dug out with a special digging implement of deer horn, tied to a wooden

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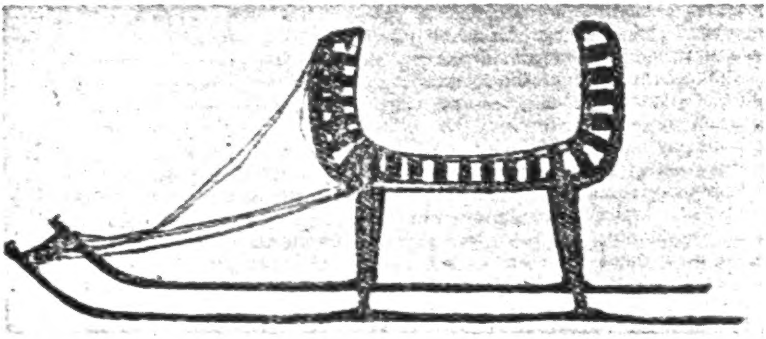


18th-century dogsled.

105

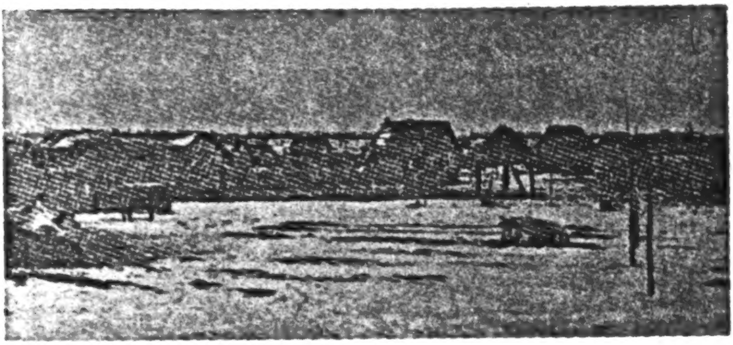
[222] handle. Later the horn was replaced by an iron tip. Gathering plants was
women's work. Fishing and hunting were men's occupations, but the pre-
[462] serving of fish was in the woman's domain, as were the spinning of thread
for the nets from nettle, the weaving of mats, and sewing of clothes.
Krasheninnikov reports that preparing food, tending the dogs and all
carpentry work were done by men.

The Russians found among the Itel'mens a highly developed neolithic
[321] technology. "The former Kamchatka metals, almost until the coming of
the Russians, were bone and stones. They were used in the making of axes,
[324] knives, spears, arrows, lancets and needles," Krasheninnikov writes
about the Itel'mens. Rock crystal was also widely used for knives and tips.
[372] Fire was made with a wooden drill. Food, mainly fish and meat, was
[252] cooked even in the early 18th century in wooden troughs, into which red-
hot stones were thrown.

[231] The only domesticated animal of the Itel'mens was the dog. Later,
harness dog-breeding of the so-called Eastern Siberian type developed
[177] in Kamchatka. However, until the middle of the 19th century, the Itel'mens
[493] used their ancient sled with two pairs of arched staves and a saddle-like
seat. At the time of Krasheninnikov's visit, the Itel'mens had gliding skis,
[481] but used mostly woven snowshoes. River navigation was by bat—narrow
[501] boats, hollowed out of whole poplar trunks. For stability and greater car-
rying capacity, two of these boats were sometimes tied together and
[461] covered to make a platform. Krasheninnikov reports that it took the
Itel'mens three years to make a bat with a stone adze.

● [361] The Russians called the Itel'men villages in the 18th century ostrozhkas,
or "little forts." They were situated along river banks and consisted of
[342] winter and summer dwellings. The winter dwelling was a semiunderground
yurt, as it was then called by the Russians, with an entrance through the
smoke-opening in the roof. The dwelling also had a side exit, but this was
used only by women and children. The summer dwelling of the individual
family was the so-called balagan—a pyramidal, grass-covered tent set
[291] on high platforms resting on piles. The ancient dress of the Itel'mens
[171] resembled Koryak and Chukchi dress.

Such, in its general features, was the material culture of the Itel'mens in the beginning of the 18th century. Analogous to the low level of material production were the primitive forms of social relations.



View of the village of Sedanka, early 20th century.

The development of trade gave rise to the exploitation of the Itel'mens 175
by merchants. These gave the Itel'mens goods on credit, often against their 439
will; then, if the debt was not paid in time, they doubled or tripled the sum. 426
Often, an Itel'men would have to pay as long as he lived for some small article, such as a knife. This type of trade did not disappear even after the formation of the Russo-American Company (1799). The company sold its wares at prices 10 times higher than their actual value. By the 1860's, the indebtedness of the Itel'mens to this company had risen to the grandiose sum of 150,000 rubles.

The Itel'men economy remained essentially subsistence. The fishing 175
catch went solely for the satisfaction of the fishermen's needs, and none of [433]
it was sold. The only articles that had commodity value were furs. Villages [622]
were governed by elders, elected by the villagers and approved by the
Russian administration. Very often the post of elder was hereditary. Sur- [648]
vivals of clan organization were preserved among the Itel'mens until the [178]
20th century. These included elements of collective production and distribu-
tion of food products—collective fishing by means of fishtraps, collective [614]
seal hunting, division of the carcass of a whale cast up on the shore, the [476]
custom of mutual aid, etc.

The first efforts at introducing agriculture were made after the founding 175
of a monastery (the Uspenskaya Pustyn') on Kamchatka, in the first quarter 648
of the 18th century. In the 1740's the first group of Russian peasants was 241
resettled in Kamchatka. Further groups of settlers followed, but agriculture
enjoyed small success. The administrative method of introducing agri- [1792]
culture among the Itel'mens could yield no appreciable results with the primitive agricultural techniques of that time. The products of agriculture therefore held a small place in Itel'men economy. Gardening was more successful. In the second half of the 19th century, all Itel'men villages had small gardens, producing potatoes, turnips and horse-radish. But even this gardening was negligible in scope and extremely primitive. The natives were unskilled in tending plants; they dug the soil with wooden hoes, did not know about watering, and so on.

Cattle were first brought to Kamchatka in 1733, and again, from time to 175
time, in succeeding years. The livestock was kept grazing all year; there 648
was little preparation of hay. Horses were also left to their own devices, 231
and became so wild that they were difficult to catch. They were used chiefly in autumn as riding and pack animals. Wheel transport, such as the cart,

000 attempt by land, and the paſſage by ſea was not leſs dangerous; beſides there was no veſſel either in the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, or of Bolcheretſk*.

M. Koſloff had his affairs to ſettle, which, with the preparations for our departure, detained us ſix days longer, and afforded me time to ſatisfy myſelf that the frigates were not likely to return. I embraced this opportunity of commencing my obſervations, and making minutes of every thing
361 about me. I attended particularly to the
712 bay of Avatcha, and the port of Saint Peter
R and Saint Paul, in order to give a juſt idea
177
.71 of them.

This bay has been minutely deſcribed by captain Cook, and we found his account to be accurate. It has ſince undergone ſome

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* The navigation is ſufficiently ſafe in ſummer, and is the only mode of travelling that is adopted.

alter-

361/712 R 177.71 alterations; which, it is ſaid, are to be followed by many others; particularly as to the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. It is poſſible indeed, that the very next ſhip which ſhall arrive, expecting to find only five or ſix houſes, may be ſurpriſed with the ſight of an entire town, built of wood, but tolerably fortified.

Such at leaſt is the projected plan, which, as I learned indirectly, is to be aſcribed to M. Kaſloff, whoſe views are equally great, and conducive to the ſervice of his miſtreſs. The execution of this plan will contribute not a little to increaſe the celebrity of the port, already made famous by the foreign veſſels which have touched there, as well as by its favourable ſituation for commerce *.

To

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* According to the accounts of the earlieſt navigators, it is the moſt commodious port in this part of Aſia, and ought to be the general depôt for the commerce of the country. This would be ſo much the more advantageous, as the veſſels which frequent the other ports, commonly conſider themſelves

361 To underſtand the nature, and eſtimate
712 the utility of this project, nothing more is
R
177 neceſſary

.71 ſelves as fortunate if they eſcape ſhipwreck; and for this reaſon the Empreſs has expreſsly prohibited all navigation after the 26th of September.

I learned a circumſtance at the ſame time, which confirms what I have ſaid, and ſeems to have occaſioned the firſt idea of theſe improvements.

177 An Engliſh ſhip, belonging to M. Lanz, a merchant of
439 Macao, came to anchor in the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, in the year 1786. Captain Peters, who commanded the veſſel, made propoſals of commerce to the Ruſſians, of which the following are the particulars. By a treaty which he had entered into with a Ruſſian merchant, named Schelikhoff, he engaged to carry on a commerce with this part of the ſtates of the Empreſs, and demanded goods to the amount of eighty thouſand roubles. Theſe goods would probably have conſiſted of furs, which the Engliſh expected to find a market for in China, from whence they would have brought back in exchange ſtuffs and other articles uſeful to the Ruſſians. Schelikhoff repaired immediately to Saint Peterſburg, to ſolicit the conſent of his ſovereign, which he obtained; but while was endeavouring to fulfil the conditions of his engagement, he learned that the Engliſh veſſel had been loſt upon the coaſt of Copper Iſland *(Ile de Cuivre)* in its return to Kamtſchatka from the north-weſt part of America, where it was probable it had ſailed,

in

361/712 neceſſary than to have an idea of the extent
R and form of the bay of Avatſcha, and the
177 port in queſtion. We have already many
.71 accurate deſcriptions, which are in the
hands of every one. I ſhall therefore confine myſelf to what may tend to illuſtrate the views of M. Kaſloff.

The port of St. Peter and St. Paul, is known to be ſituated at the north of the entrance of the bay, and cloſed in at the ſouth by a very narrow neck of land, upon which the *oſtrog**, or village of Kamtſchatka

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177 in order to begin its cargo, which it expected to complete
439 at the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Two only of the crew were known to have been ſaved, a Portugueſe and a Bengal negro, who paſſed the winter at Copper Iſland, from whence a Ruſſian veſſel conveyed them to Nijenei-Kamtſchatka. We joined them at Bolcheretſk, and it was M. Kaſloff's intention to ſend them next ſeaſon to Peterſburg.

* The word *oſtrog* properly ſignifies a conſtruction ſurrounded with palliſadoes. Its etymology may be derived, I imagine, from the entrenchments haſtily conſtructed by the Ruſſians

361 ſchatka is built. Upon an eminence to the
712 eaſt, at the moſt interior point of the bay,
R
177 is the houſe of the governor*, with whom
.71 M. Kaſloff reſided during his ſtay. Near this houſe, almoſt in the ſame line, is that of a corporal of the garriſon, and a little higher inclining to the north, that of the ſerjeant, who, next to the governor, are the only perſons at all diſtinguiſhed in this ſettlement, if indeed it deſerves the name of ſettlement. Oppoſite to the entrance of the port, on the declivity of the eminence, from which a lake of conſiderable extent is ſeen, are the ruins of the hoſpital mentioned in captain Cooke's voyage†. Below theſe,

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Ruſſians to protect them from the incurſions of the natives, who, doubtleſs, did not paſſively ſuffer their country to be invaded. The appellation of oſtrog is now given to almoſt all the villages in this country.

[*] His name was Khabaroff, and he had the rank of a *prĕporchik*, or enſign.

[†] At a little diſtance from this ſpot was buried, at the foot of a tree, the body of captain Clerke. The inſcription which

361/712 R 177 .71 theſe, and nearer the ſhore, is a building which ſerves as a magazine to the garriſon, and which is conſtantly guarded by a centinel. Such was the ſtate in which we found the port of St. Peter and St. Paul.

By the propoſed augmentation, it will evidently become an intereſting place. The entrance was to be cloſed, or at leaſt flanked by fortifications, which were to ſerve at the ſame time as a defence, on this ſide, to the projected town, which was chiefly to be

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which the Engliſh placed upon his tomb, was on wood, and liable to be effaced. Count de la Perouſe, deſirous that the name of this navigator ſhould be immortaliſed, without having any thing to fear from the injuries of the weather, ſubſtituted inſtead of it an inſcription on copper.

It is needleſs to mention, that he enquired at the ſame time where the famous French aſtronomer, from the iſland of Croyere, had been buried. He entreated M. Kaſloff to order a tomb to be erected, and an epitaph, which he left engraved on copper, to be placed on it, containing an elogy, and the circumſtances of the death of our countryman. I ſaw his intentions carried into execution after the departure of the French frigates.

361 be built upon the ſite of the old hoſpital;
712 that is, between the port and the lake. A
R 177 battery alſo was to be erected upon the
.71 neck of land which ſeparates the bay from
the lake, in order to protect the other part
of the town. In ſhort, by this plan, the
entrance of the bay would be defended
by a ſufficiently ſtrong battery upon the
leaſt elevated point of the left coaſt; and
veſſels entering the bay could not eſcape
the cannon, becauſe of the breakers on the
right. There is at preſent upon the point
of a rock, a battery of ſix or eight cannon,
lately erected to ſalute our frigates.

563 I need not add, that the augmentation of
712 the garriſon forms a part of the plan, which
R 177 conſiſts only at preſent of forty ſoldiers, or
.71 Coſſacs. Their mode of living and their
dreſs are ſimilar to the Kamtſchadales, except that in time of ſervice they have a
ſabre, firelock, and cartouch box; in other

reſpects

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

563 reſpects they are not diſtinguiſhable from the indigenes, but by their features and idiom.

161
361 With reſpect to the Kamtſchadale village, which forms a conſiderable part of the place, and is ſituated, as I have already ſaid, upon the narrow projection of land which cloſes in the entrance of the port, it is at preſent compoſed of from thirty to forty habitations, including winter and ſummer ones, called *iſbas* and *balagans*; and the number of inhabitants, taking in the garriſon, does not exceed a hundred, men, women and children. The intention is to increaſe them to upwards of four hundred.

13 To theſe details reſpecting the port of St. Peter and St. Paul, and its deſtined improvements, I ſhall add a few remarks upon the nature of the ſoil, the climate, and the

rivers.

000 ing, and we were treated with the utmoſt hoſpitality; but we had ſcarcely entered when the rain fell in ſuch abundance, that we were obliged to ſtay longer than we wiſhed.

I eagerly embraced this ſhort interval to deſcribe ſome of the objects which I had deferred till my arrival at Bolcheretſk, where, perhaps, I may find others that will not be leſs intereſting.

361/164 133 The oſtrog of Paratounka is ſituated by the ſide of a river of that name, about two leagues from its mouth*. This village is ſcarcely

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Peter and St. Paul; but this cannot take place till the projected improvements reſpecting the port are carried into execution. We cannot help obſerving, that the Engliſh have omitted to mention that there was formerly a church at St. Peter and St. Paul's, and that its ſituation is known by means of a ſort of tomb which formed a part of it.

[*] This river empties itſelf, as I have already ſaid, into the bay of Avatſcha. The ſhoals, which are commonly dry

361 ſcarcely more populous than that of St.
164 Peter and St. Paul. The ſmall pox has,
133 in this place particularly, made dreadful ravages. The number of balagans and iſbas ſeemed to be very nearly the ſame as at Petropavloſska*.

342 The Kamtſchadales lodge in the firſt du-
R ring ſummer, and retreat to the laſt in
177 winter. As it is thought deſirable that
.34

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dry at low water, render its entrance impracticable; it is even difficult at high water.

[*] As I ſtood to examine the Kamtſchadale houſes, I frequently imagined to myſelf the diſdainful ſurpriſe that our French Sybarites would expreſs at the ſight, ſome of whom are ſo proud of their vaſt hotels, and others ſo jealous of their little neat and decorated apartments, where the art of arrangement ſcarcely falls ſhort of the refined luxury of ſuperb furniture. I conceived them to exclaim—How can human beings live in theſe miſerable huts! A Kamtſchadale however, is by no means unhappy in theſe cabins, whoſe architecture ſeem to lead us back to the firſt age of the world; he lives there with his family in tranquillity; he enjoys at leaſt the happineſs of knowing few privations, and of having therefore leſs wants, and has no objects of envious compariſon before his eyes.

000 when in the midſt of ice and ſnow, that I had not to contend with the violence of whirlwinds and tempeſts.

We were about ſix or ſeven hours in going from Paratounka to Koriaki, which, as far as I could judge, is from thirty-eight to forty werſts. Scarcely arrived, we were obliged to take refuge in the houſe of the *toyon*, to ſhelter ourſelves from the rain; he ceded his iſba to M. Kaſloff, and we ſpent the night there.

361 The oſtrog of Koriaki is ſituated in the midſt of a coppice wood, and upon the border of the river Avatſcha, which becomes very narrow in this part. Five or ſix iſbas, and twice, or at moſt three times the number of balagans, make up this village, which is ſimilar to that of Paratounka, except that it is leſs, and has no pariſh church. I obſerved in general that oſtrogs of ſo little

361 conſideration were not provided with a church.

361 The next day we mounted our horſes
515 and took the way to Natchikin, another oſtrog in the Bolcheretſk route. We were to ſtop a few days in the neighbourhood for the ſake of the baths, which M. Kaſloff had conſtructed at his own expence, for the benefit and pleaſure of the inhabitants, upon the hots ſprings that are found there, and which I ſhall preſently deſcribe. The way from Koriaki to Natchikin is tolerably commodious, and we croſſed without difficulty all the little ſtreams that fall from the mountains, at the foot of which we paſſed. About three-fourths of the way we met the Bolchaia-reka*; from the ſite of its greateſt breadth, which in this place is about ten or twelve yards, it appears to wind to a conſiderable extent to the north eaſt; we jour-

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* A Ruſſian name which ſignifies, *large river.*

000 neyed on its bank for ſome time, till we came to a little mountain, which we were obliged to paſs over in order to reach the village. A heavy rain which came on as we left Koriaki, ceaſed a few minutes after; but the wind having changed to the north-weſt, the heavens became obſcured, and we had abundance of ſnow; we were about two-thirds of our way, and it continued till
361 our arrival. I remarked that the ſnow al-
515 ready covered the mountains, even ſuch as were loweſt, upon which it deſcribed an equal line at a certain elevation, but that below them no traces of it were yet perceptible. We forded the Bolchaia-reka, and found on the other ſide the oſtrog of Natchikin, where I counted ſix or ſeven iſbas and twenty balagans, ſimilar to what I had ſeen before. We made no ſtay there, M. Kaſloff thinking it proper to haſten immediately to the baths, to which I was in-

clined

contributed to make us paſs a moſt comfortable night.

133/361 The next day we fitted ourſelves out early and without difficulty. We arrived in four hours at Apatchin, but our floats could not come up as far as the village, on account of the ſhallowneſs of the water. We landed about four hundred yards from the oſtrog, and atchieved this ſhort diſtance on foot.

This village did not appear to me ſo conſiderable as the preceding ones, that is, it contained perhaps three or four habitations leſs. It is ſituated in a ſmall plain, watered by a branch of the Bolchaïa-reka; and on the ſide oppoſite to the oſtrog is an extent of wood, which I conceived might be an iſland formed by the different branches of this river.

361 I learned by the way, that the oſtrog of Apatchin, as well as that of Natchikin, had not been always where they are at preſent. It is within a few years only that the inhabitants, attracted without doubt by the ſituation, or the hope of better and more commodious fiſhing, removed their houſes to this place. The diſtance of the new oſtrog from the former one is, as I was told, about four or five werſts.

133 Apatchin afforded nothing intereſting. I left it to join our floats, which had paſſed the ſhallows, and were waiting for us three werſts from the oſtrog, at the ſpot where the branch of Bolchaïa-reka, after having made a circuit round the village, returns again to its channel. The farther we advanced, the deeper and more rapid we found it; ſo that nothing impeded our courſe the whole way to Bolcheretſk, where we arrived at ſeven o'clock in the evening,

accom-

The Biſtraïa, another very rapid river
133 and larger than the Bolchaïa-reka, joins it
361 to the weſt, about the diſtance of half a werſt from Bolcheretſk. It loſes its name at the conflux, and takes that of the Bolchaïa-reka, which is rendered very conſiderable by this addition, and empties itſelf into the ſea at the diſtance of thirty werſts.

We landed at ſeven o'clock in the evening at a little hamlet called *Tcbekaſki*. Two iſbas, two balagans, and a yourt almoſt in ruins, were all the habitations I could perceive. There was alſo a wretched warehouſe, made of wood, to which they give the name of magazine, becauſe it belongs to the crown, and firſt receives the ſupplies with which the galliots from Okotſk* are freighted. The hamlet was built as a guard to this magazine. We paſſed the

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* When theſe galliots are obliged to winter here, they harbour in the mouth of a narrow and deep river, which pours itſelf into the Bolchaïa-reka, about fifty yards from the hamlet, higher up.

night

000 tended to the ſouth. It appeared to be
about two werſts from us, ſouth of the entrance
of the Bolchaïa-reka. At the point
of land juſt mentioned, we diſcovered the
light houſe, and the cot of the perſons appointed
to guard the wreck: unfortunately
we could only ſee all this at a diſtance. The
direction of the river, from the place where
it empties itſelf into the ſea, appeared to
me to be north-weſt, and its opening to be
133 half a werſt wide. The light-houſe is on
361 the left coaſt, and on the right is the continuation
of the low land, which the ſea
overflows in tempeſtuous weather, and which
extends almoſt as far as the hamlet of Tchekafki.
The diſtance of the hamlet from the
mouth of the river is from ſix to eight
werſts. The nearer we approach the entrance,
the more rapid is the current.

It was not poſſible to purſue our voyage; the wind became ſtronger, and the waves increaſed

000 very common at this ſeaſon, it is not be wondered at that ſhipwrecks are ſo frequent on theſe coaſts: the veſſels are ſo ſmall as to have but one maſt; and, what is ſtill worſe, the ſailors who manage them, if report may be credited, have too little ſkill to be confided in.

The next day we reſumed our journey, and arrived at Bolcheretſk in the duſk of the evening.

As I forſee that my ſtay here will probably be long, from the neceſſity of waiting till ſledges can be uſed, I ſhall proceed with my deſcriptions, and the recital of what I have ſeen myſelf, or learned from my converſations with the Ruſſians and
361 Kamtſchadales. I ſhall begin with the
563 town, or fort of Bolcheretſk, for ſo it is
called, in Ruſſia (*oſtrog*, or *krepoſt*).

It is ſituated on the border of the Bol-

chaïa-

361/563 chaïa-reka, in a ſmall iſland formed by different branches of this river, which divide the town into three parts more or leſs inhabited. The moſt diſtant diviſion, and which is fartheſt to the eaſt, is a kind of ſuburb called *Paranchine*; it contains ten or twelve iſbas. South eaſt of Paranchine, is the middle diviſion, where there is alſo a number iſbas, and among others, a row of wooden huts that ſerve for ſhops. Oppoſite to theſe is the guard-houſe, which is alſo the chancery, or court of juſtice*; this houſe is larger than the reſt, and is always guarded by a centinel. A ſecond branch of the Bolchaïa-reka again ſeparates, by a very narrow ſtream, this group of habitations, built without order, and ſcattered here and there, from another at the north-weſt, nearer the river. The river in this part flows in the direction

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* This guard-houſe is likewiſe uſed as a priſon, and even as a ſchool for children. The maſter of the ſchool is a Japaneſe; he is ſkilled in many languages, and is paid by government for inſtructing the children of this country.

361 563 direction of ſouth-eaſt and north-weſt, and paſſes within fifty yards of the governor's houſe. This houſe is eaſily diſtinguiſhed from the reſt; it is higher, larger, and is built like the wooden houſes of St. Peterſburg. Two hundred yards north-eaſt of this houſe, is the church; the conſtruction of which is ſimple, and like that of the village churches in Ruſſia. By the ſide of it is an erection of timber work, twenty feet high, covered only with a roof, under which three bells are ſuſpended. North-weſt of the governor's houſe, and ſeparated from it by a meadow or marſh about three hundred yards wide, is another group of dwellings, conſiſting of twenty-five or thirty iſbas, and ſome balagans. There are in general very few of theſe latter habitations at Bolcheretſk; the whole do not exceed ten; the iſbas and wooden houſes, without including the eight ſhops, the chancery, and the governor's houſe, amount to fifty or ſixty.

From

361 712 R 177 .71 From this minute deſcription of the fort of Bolcheretſk, it muſt appear ſtrange that it retains ſo inapplicable a name; for I can affirm, that no traces are to be found of fortifications, nor does it appear that there has ever been an intention of erecting any. The ſtate and ſituation, both of the town and its port, induce me to believe, that government have felt the innumerable dangers and obſtacles they would have to ſurmount, if they were to attempt to render it more flouriſhing, and make it the general depôt of commerce to the peninſula. Their views, as I have already obſerved, ſeem rather turned to the port of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, which for its proximity, ſafety, and eaſy acceſs, merits the preference.

563 There is a degree of civilization at Bolcheretſk, which I did not perceive at Petropavlofska. This ſenſible approach to European manners, occaſions a ſtriking differ-

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000 After a few bad nights, ſleep at laſt overpowered me, and I was inſenſible to all noiſe. By degrees I became ſo inured to the cries of theſe animals, that I could repoſe in the midſt of them in perfect tranquillity. 231 I ſhall mention in this place, that the dogs are only fed once a day, at the end of their journey; their repaſt conſiſts commonly of a dried ſalmon diſtributed to each of them.

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The oſtrog of Malkin is ſimilar to thoſe which I have already deſcribed. It contains five or ſix iſbas and a dozen balagans, is ſituated upon the border of the Biſtraïa, and ſurrounded with high mountains. I had no time to viſit the hot ſprings that are ſaid to be in this neighbourhood, the waters of which are ſtrongly impregnated with ſulphur; and one in particular, iſſuing from the declivity of a hill, forms at the bottom a baſon of tolerably clear water.

361 From Malkin we went to Ganal, which is forty-five werſts, but we were unable to travel with the ſpeed we had expected. The Biſtraïa was not completely frozen, and we were obliged to wind about and to croſs woods, where the ſnow, though deep, was ſo far from firm, that our dogs ſunk to their bellies, and were extremely fatigued. This induced us to abandon this road, and make again for the Biſtraïa. We came up to it at ten werſts from Ganal, and found it in the ſtate we had wiſhed. The ſolidity of the ice promiſed us expeditious travelling, and we readily embraced the advantage. We followed this river till we came to the oſtrog which is upon its bank, and conſiſts of four iſbas and twelve balagans. It offered nothing remarkable.

1 32 We only learned that there had been ſome very terrible hurricanes, and that they had not yet ſubſided, though their force was

000 have proceeded from the north, and been very heavy, which was confirmed by the inhabitants. Our road lay invariably through a foreſt of birch trees, and for ſome time we loſt ſight of the mountains, by which we had paſſed the preceding evening; but as we drew nearer to Pouſchiné they became viſible again.

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342 The Kamtſchatka runs by the lower end of this oſtrog, which is larger than that of Ganal. The only thing I remarked in this place was, that the iſbas had no chimneys; they have only, like the balagans, a narrow opening in the roof to let out the ſmoak, which is frequently cloſed up by a trap door to confine the heat. It is not poſſible to continue in apartments warmed in this manner; we muſt either come out, or proſtrate ourſelves on the floor, if we would eſcape being ſtifled, or at leaſt blinded, by the ſmoke: it does not aſcend directly towards

000 had all the difficulty in the world to diſengage themſelves from the ſnow, which covered them as faſt as they ſhook it off. It was frequently neceſſary to ſmooth it before them, to enable them to extricate the ſledge. This alſo was the office of my guides. To ſupport themſelves upon the ſnow, they each faſtened a racket to one of their feet, and in this manner they ſlid along, reſting now and then their other foot upon the ſkate of the ſledge. I doubt whether any exerciſe can be more fatiguing, or require greater ſtrength and ſkill.

The oſtrog of Charom, at which we had the good fortune to arrive, is ſituated upon the Kamtſchatka: it furniſhed me with no remarks. We paſſed part of the night there, and left it before day.

361 In ſeven hours we reached Vercknei-Kamtſchatka, which is thirty-five werſts from

361/343 from Charom. Vercknei is a very conſiderable place, compared with the oſtrogs I had hitherto ſeen. I counted more than a hundred houſes. Its ſituation is commodious, and the proſpect round it tolerably various. Beſides bordering upon the river*, it has the farther advantage of being near to woods and fields, the ſoil of which is good, and begins to be cultivated by the inhabitants. The church is built of wood; its architecture is not diſagreeable, and it is only to be wiſhed that the inſide correſponded with the external appearance. The inhabitants differ in no reſpect from thoſe of the other villages. For the firſt time I ſaw at this place a ſpecies of buildings, about the height of a balagan, that ſerve no other purpoſe than to dry fiſh. A ſerjeant had the command at Vercknei, who lives in a houſe belonging to the crown.

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* The Kamtſchatka, which was not yet frozen.

000 ſenſible of his paſt ſufferings, or weary of his preſent ſituation.

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563 Our ſtay at Vercknei was ſhort; we ſet out after dinner in order to ſleep at Milkovaïa-Derevna, otherwiſe called the village of Milkoff, which was at the diſtance of fifteen werſts. In our way we paſſed a tolerably large field incloſed with palliſades, and farther on a *zaimka*, that is, a hamlet inhabited by labourers. Theſe labourers were Coſſacs, or Ruſſian ſoldiers, employed in the cultivation of land on government account. They had eighty horſes belonging to the crown, and which equally anſwer the purpoſes of induſtry, and of the ſtud eſtabliſhed in this place for the propagation of animals ſo uſeful and ſo ſcarce in the peninſula. About five hundred yards from this hamlet, which is called Iſchigatchi, upon an arm of the Kamtſchatka, is a water mill built of wood, but not very large. No uſe could at preſent

563 ſent be made of it. The ſwell of water had been ſo great as to overflow the ſluice, and to ſpread itſelf over a part of the plain where it was frozen. The ſoil appeared to be good, and the country round it to be very pleaſant. I queſtioned the Coſſacs upon the productions of their canton, where I conceived every ſpecies of corn might be cultivated with ſucceſs. They told me that their laſt harveſt had, both in quantity and quality, ſurpaſſed their hopes, and was not inferior to the fineſt harveſts in Ruſſia; two pouds of corn had produced ten.

563 Arrived at Milkoff, I was aſtoniſhed no
361 longer to ſee either Kamtſchadales or Coſ-
241 ſacs, but an intereſting colony of peaſants
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177 whoſe features and addreſs told me they
.24 were not a mixed breed. This colony was
ſelected in 1743, partly in Ruſſia and partly in Siberia, among the primitive inhabitants, that is, among the huſbandmen. The view of

563 of adminiſtration, in ſending them into this
241 country was, that they might clear the
361 R land and make experiments in agriculture;
177 hoping that their example and ſucceſs would
.24 inſtruct and encourage the indigenes, and induce them to employ their labours in this advantageous and neceſſary art. Unfortunately their extreme indolence, which I have already deſcribed, little correſponded with the wiſe intentions of government; and ſo far are they from pretending to any rivalſhip, that they have never derived the ſmalleſt advantage from the examples that are before their eyes. This extreme ſluggiſhneſs of the natives is the more painful to an obſerver, as he cannot but admire the induſtry of theſe active emigrants, whoſe labours have been attended with ſuch beneficial effects. Their habitations, ſituated upon the Kamtſchatka, ſeem to ſhew that they live at their eaſe. Their cattle thrive well from the great care they take of them. I obſerved

563 241 R 177 ,24 neſs is to inſpect the progreſs of agriculture; to preſide over their ſeed time and their harveſt, to fix the preciſe period when they are to take place; in ſhort, to ſtimulate the negligence, or encourage the zeal of the labourers, and particularly to maintain the ſpirit of the eſtabliſhment and a good underſtanding among them.

000 Being deſirous of going to Machoure, to ſpend a day with the baron de Steinheil, I left M. Kaſloff at Milkoff, and ſet out twenty four hours before him, that I might occaſion no delay in his journey. To travel with the greater expedition I made uſe of a ſmall ſledge. The reads were no better or leſs obſtructed with ſnow than what we had before experienced, and I was therefore unable to make the ſpeed I intended, notwithſtanding my precaution. The firſt village I came to was Kirgan. Before I 361 reached it, I paſſed a number of houſes and

balagans

361 balagans that appeared to be deſerted, but I was informed that the ſummer regularly brought back every year their proprietors. The few habitations which compoſe the oſtrog of Kirgan, are built upon the border of a river called Kirganik, which is formed by a variety of ſtreams that iſſue from then eighbouring mountains, and unite above the oſtrog, fifteen werſts from Milkoff.

The cold was ſo ſevere, that notwithſtanding the precaution I took of covering my face with a handkerchief, my cheeks were frozen in leſs than half an hour. I had recourſe to the uſual remedy, that of rubbing my face with ſnow, and was relieved at the expence of an acute pain that continued for ſeveral days. Though my face was thus frozen, the reſt of my body experienced the contrary effect. I conducted my own ſledge; and the continual motion

000 ſound, and feels an inſtant deſire to repoſe in him all its confidence. The ſight of M. Steinheil imparted to me this delicious ſenſation. There was in his converſation, from the very firſt moment, an irreſiſtible attraction. I felt a ſort of craving to ſee him, to talk with him; it had the effect of a charm, though his French, as I have ſaid, was not the moſt pure, and was pronounced with the German accent. I ſpent the day of 4 February with the baron, and in the evening M. Kaſloff arrived as he had previouſly informed me.

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361 The oſtrog of Machoure, before the in-
756 troduction of the ſmall-pox, was one of the
609 moſt conſiderable in the peninſula; but the
797 ravages of this cruel diſeaſe, have reduced
the number of inhabitants to twenty families.

All the Kamtſchadales of this village,

000 ſoon puniſhed. After having travelled a conſiderable number of werſts upon the Kamtſchatka, which I had been delighted to find again, and the width of which in this place particularly ſtruck me, I was obliged to quit it and enter a ſort of ſtrait, where the ſnow, driven by the hurricanes, preſented an uneven and deceitful ſurface. It was impoſſible to ſee or avoid the rocks that ſurrounded me. I preſently heard a crack that told me my ſledge was damaged; it was in reality one of my ſkates broken in two. My guides aſſiſted me in adjuſting it in the beſt manner we could, and we had the good fortune to reach Ouchkoff without any other accident. It was midnight, and we travelled this day ſixty-ſix werſts. My firſt care was to refit my ſledge, which detained me till the next day.

361 There are in this village one iſba, and
136 eleven balagans; the number of inhabitants
438 is

is reduced to five families, who are divided 361
into three yourts. In the neighbourhood 136
is a lake which abounds ſo much with fiſh, 438
that all the villages round reſort to it for their winter ſtock. It is alſo a conſiderable reſource for the capital, which would otherwiſe be almoſt deſtitute of a proviſion of the firſt neceſſity throughout the peninſula.

I left Ouchkoff early in the morning, and 361
at noon had travelled forty-four werſts, partly upon the Kamtſchatka, and partly acroſs extenſive heaths. The firſt village I came to was Kreſtoff. It was a little larger than the preceding oſtrog, but ſimilar in other reſpects to what I had before ſeen. 000
I only ſtayed to change my dogs. Hitherto I had purſued the road which M. Kaſloff was to take to get to Yeloſki; but inſtead of proceeding like him to Khartchina, I directed my courſe, upon coming out of

000 Kreſtoff, towards the village of Klutcheſskaïa, which is thirty werſts from it.

The weather, which, ſince our departure
from Apatchin, had been very fine, though
cold, changed all of a ſudden in the after-
133 noon. The ſky became clouded, and the
wind, which roſe in the weſt, brought us
a heavy ſnow. It extremely incommoded
us, and prevented me from examining as I
could have wiſhed, the volcano of Klut-
cheſskaïa, which I had ſeen at the ſame
time with thoſe of Tolbatchina. As far as
I could judge, the mountain that carries it
in its womb, is conſiderably higher than the
other two. It continually throws up flames,
which ſeem to aſcend from the midſt of
the ſnow, with which the mountain is co-
vered to its very ſummit.

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177 Upon the approach of night I came to
.24 the village of Klutcheſskaïa. The inhabi-

tants

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tants are all Siberian peaſants, from the neighbourhood of the Lena, and were ſent about fifty years ago into this part of the peninſula to cultivate the land. The number of males, including men and children, ſcarcely exceed fifty. The ſmall-pox attacked only thoſe who had not before been affected with it; but it carried off more than one half of them. Theſe labourers are leſs happy than thoſe who live in the neighbourhood of Verknei-Kamtſchatka. The quantity and quality of their laſt harveſt, both rye and barley, exceeded their hopes. Theſe peaſants have many horſes belonging to them; in the mean time there are ſome which are the property of government.

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177.24

This oſtrog is tolerably large, and appears the more ſo from being divided into two parts, about four hundred yards from each other. It extends principally from

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563 eaſt to weſt. To the eaſtward is ſituated
361 the church, which is built of wood, and in
R
177 the Ruſſian taſte. The majority of houſes
.24 are better conſtructed, and are more clean, than any I have yet ſeen. There are alſo ſome conſiderable magazines. The number of balagans is ſmall, and they are very unlike thoſe of the Kamtſchadales; their form is oblong, and their roof, which has the ſame declivity as ours, reſts upon poſts, which ſupport it in the air.

The Kamtſchatka paſſes at the bottom of the oſtrog; it is never entirely frozen in this part. In ſummer it frequently overflows and enters the very houſes, though they are all of them built upon an eminence.

Four werſts eaſt of the church of Klutchefskaïa, is another *zaimka*, or little hamlet, inhabited by Coſſacs or labouring ſoldiers,

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diers, whoſe harveſts belong to government: but I cannot get out of my way to examine it.

I made a very ſhort ſtay at Klutcheſſkaïa, my impatience to ſee Nijenei inducing me to leave it the ſame evening in order to reach Kamini, a Kamtſchadale village, twenty werſts farther. I arrived at midnight, but merely paſſed through it.

Before day I was at Kamokoff, twenty werſts from Kamini. I ſoon arrived at Tchokoſskoi, or Tchoka, which is twenty-two werſts farther. From thence to Nijenei, the diſtance is the ſame, and I travelled it equally in a few hours. I had the pleaſure of entering a little before noon into this capital of Kamtſchatka, which is ſeen at a conſiderable diſtance, but its appearance is neither ſtriking nor agreeable.

361/132 It preſents to our view merely a cluſter of houſes, with three ſteeples riſing above them, and is ſituated upon the border of the Kamtſchatka, in a baſon formed by a chain of mountains that raiſe their lofty heads around it, but which are however at a tolerable diſtance. Such is the poſition of the town of Nijenei, of which I had a higher opinion before I ſaw it. The houſes, amounting to about a hundred and fifty, are of wood, built in a very bad taſte, ſmall, and buried beſide under the ſnow, which the hurricanes collect there. Theſe hurricanes prevail almoſt continually in this quarter, and have only ceaſed within a few days. There are two churches at Nijenei, one is in the town, and has two ſteeples; the other belongs to, and is in the circuit of the fort. Theſe two buildings are wretchedly conſtructed. The fort is almoſt in the middle of the town, and is a large paliſaded encloſure of a ſquare form. Beſides the church,

the

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361 the encloſure contains alſo the magazines, the arſenal, and the guard-houſe: a ſentinel is ſtationed at the entrance both day and night. The houſe of the governor, major Orleankoff, is near the fortreſs, and, its ſize excepted, is ſimilar to the reſt of the houſes; it is neither higher, nor built in a better taſte.

000 I alighted at the houſe of an unfortunate exile, named Snafidoff, who had ſuffered the ſame puniſhment as Ivaſchkin, nearly at the ſame time, but for different cauſes: like Ivaſchkin, he had been baniſhed to Kamtſchatka ever ſince the year 1744.

I had ſcarcely entered, when an officer from M. Orleankoff came to congratulate me upon my happy arrival. He was followed by many of the principal officers of the town, who came one after another in the moſt obliging manner to offer me their

ſervices.

513 their heads, they lay down on their bed as if it were the beſt in the world. As to our dogs, they were unharneſſed, and tied to the trees that were near us, where they paſſed the night in their uſual manner.

The wind having conſiderably abated, we proceeded on our journey before it was light. We had thirty werſts to Ozernoï, where it had been our intention to have ſlept the preceding evening. We arrived at ten o'clock in the morning, but our dogs being extremely fatigued, we were obliged to ſpend the reſt of the day, and even the night there, in hopes that the wind, which began to blow ſtill more violently in the afternoon, would ſubſide during the interval.

361 The oſtrog takes its name from a lake that is near it. The river Ozernaïa, which is but ſmall, runs at the bottom of the village.

361 lage. The houſe of the toyon was the only iſba I ſaw, and I was informed that we ſhould meet with no more of theſe kind of buildings till we came to the town of Ingiga. There were, however, fifteen balagans and two yourts. I might here deſcribe theſe ſubterraneous habitations; but as they are ſmall in compariſon with thoſe which I ſhall ſoon have an opportunity of examining, I ſhall defer my deſcription for the preſent.

000 We paſſed alſo the 21 February at Ozernoï, in fruitleſs expectation of a ſerjeant of M. Kaſloff's ſuite, who had been ſent to Nijenei-Kamtſchatka.

The next day we reached Ouké at a tolerably early hour, which is only twenty ſix werſts. There we waited again for the ſerjeant, who had been ordered to join us at this place. But he did not come.

There

361 There is but one iſba at Ouké, which, together with a dozen balagans and two yourts, form the whole oſtrog. One of the yourts had been cleaned for M. Kaſloff, and we paſſed the night in it.

000 We left this village at break of day, and half way on our journey we ſaw a certain number of balagans, which are only inhabited, I was informed, in the fiſhing ſeaſon. Near this place we met the ſea again, and travelled on the ſhore for ſome time. I was extremely mortified at not being able to ſee at what diſtance it was frozen, nor what was the direction of this part of the eaſtern coaſt of Kamtſchatka. A north wind incommoded us, and impelled the ſnow with ſuch violence againſt us, that our whole attention was engroſſed by guarding our eyes from it; there was alſo a fog that extended from the ſhore to a conſiderable diſtance on the ſea, and intercepted almoſt entirely

000 entirely the view of it. The inhabitants of the country, whom I interrogated upon the ſubject, informed me we had juſt paſſed a bay of no very conſiderable width, and that the ſea was covered with ice as far as thirty werſts from the land.

361 At Khaluli, an oſtrog, ſituated upon a river of the ſame name, ſixty ſix werſts from Ouké, and at a ſhort diſtance from the ſea, I found but two yourts and twelve or thirteen balagans; but I had the pleaſure
281 of ſeeing a baidar covered with leather.
501 This boat was about fifteen feet long and four wide; the hull was made of planks tolerably thin, and croſſing each other; a longer and thicker piece of wood ſerved as the keel; the timbers were made faſt with leathern ſtraps; and the whole was covered over with ſeveral ſkins of ſea horſes and large ſea wolves.

166 AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING WE HAD LEFT
361 ſight of Khaluli, and paſſed an old village of the ſame name, which had been lately deſerted on account of its bad ſituation. Farther on we found ſome more deſolated habitations, formerly the oſtrog of Ivaſchkin, and which had been removed, for a ſimilar reaſon, thirty werſts from its former ſituation. We came again to the ſea, and travelled for ſome time on the eaſtern coaſt. It forms another bay at this place, which I was deſirous of examining, but was, as before, prevented by the fog. I obſerved that the fog cleared up in proportion as the wind veered to the north-eaſt, which had hitherto been weſt and north-weſt.

361 Ivaſchkin is forty werſts from Khaluli, and very near to the ſea. It contains two yourts and ſix balagans, and is ſituated upon a ſmall river of the ſame name, which was entirely frozen, as was alſo one that we had juſt paſſed.

Q 2 We

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133 ſels may ſafely anchor, and be ſheltered from the ſouth, the weſt, and the north winds. The ſouth of its entrance does not afford ſo good a harbour, as it is ſaid to have various ſand banks; I was obliged to truſt to report, the ice and the ſnow preventing me from obtaining any better information.

361/631 We travelled this day ſeventy werſts, and came in the evening to Karagui, which is upon an eminence, and affords a view of the ſea. It has only three yourts and twelve balagans, at the foot of which the river Karaga paſſes. This river pours itſelf into the ſea at the diſtance of a few gun ſhots from the oſtrog, which is the laſt in the diſtrict of Kamtſchatka; a hamlet a hundred werſts farther, and containing but few Kamtſchadales, not being included within its limits.

As we were obliged to wait here for a

7: Lesseps T-3 (1787-88) 1790 Kamchadal

000 the ſame manner as the preceding, we purſued our journey at three o'clock in the
103 morning. We quitted not the ſea coaſt
361 till we came to Gavenki, which was about ten o'clock. The name of the village is derived from the word *gavna*, which ſignifies excrement; and it is ſo called on account of its deformity and wretched ſtate. There are in reality but two iſbas falling to ruin, and ſix balagans very ill conſtructed of bad and crooked wood, which the ſea leaves ſometimes upon the ſhore; for there is not a tree in the whole neighbourhood, and nothing to be ſeen but a few paltry ſhrubs ſcattered here and there at a conſiderable diſtance from one another. I was not aſtoniſhed to learn, that not along ago, more than twenty of the inhabitants voluntarily abandoned their country to ſeek out a better abode. At preſent the population of this hamlet does not exceed five families, including that of the toyon, and two Kamtſchadales

361 ſchadales from the iſland of Karagui, who are ſettled there. No reaſon was aſſigned for this removal, and I doubt whether they have gained by the change.

000 We had not been an hour at Gavenki, when a deſpute aroſe between a ſergeant of our company, and two peaſants of the village, to whom he had applied for wood. They anſwered bluntly that they would not give him any. From one thing to another the quarrel became violent. The Kamtſchadales, little intimidated by the threats of the ſergeant, drew their knives * and fell upon him; but they were immediately diſarmed by two of our ſoldiers. As ſoon as M. Kaſloff was informed of this violence, he ordered that the guilty ſhould be puniſhed as an example. They were brought before the yourt in which we were,

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* Theſe knives are about two feet long; they are worn in their girdle, and hang upon the thigh.

and

000 onlooker it would seem as if we were deliberately beaching the vessel. "Starboard! hard a-starboard!" comes the order. "'Ard a-starboard," echoes the man at the wheel. "Hard a-port!" "'Ard a-port it is," he sings out, clawing the wheel towards him with foot and hand. "Well! I'm blessed if ever I see the likes of this 'ere place," I hear Jack mutter as we are safely berthed, and, on the whole, I am very much inclined to agree with him.

505 Our arrival created no little excitement among the inhabitants of this remote little spot: it might possibly have created even more had we not entered the harbour almost at the moment of departure of the yearly fur steamer for Japan *viâ* Okhotsk. All Petropaulovsky had assembled to wave their adieux, and not a few of them appeared torn by the conflicting desires of seeing the last of their friends and of discovering the business of the new-comers.
161 361 342 The steamer was hardly under way before we were receiving our visitors. They were but limited in number. Petropaulovsky, in spite of the imposing letters to which it is treated in the maps, is, after all, little more than a hamlet, and is probably stationary, if not actually decreasing, with regard to population. Clerke, in 1779, found the settlement consisting of thirty huts built upon the sand-spit to which I have already alluded, and consisting mostly of yourts or balagans.[1] Captain Cochrane, who in 1821 performed the unprecedented feat of walking across Siberia from Russia to Kamschatka, describes it as having increased to fifty-seven buildings, some of which were on the mainland; and at the period of the Crimean war it appears to have been as large as it is at the present time, if not actually larger. The town had been transferred to the head of the little harbour, where it now stands, and boasted of no less than two hundred edifices of all kinds. But in Kamschatka, as in other northern countries, winter storehouses, fish-drying sheds, and other out-buildings are so numerous, that the actual dwelling-

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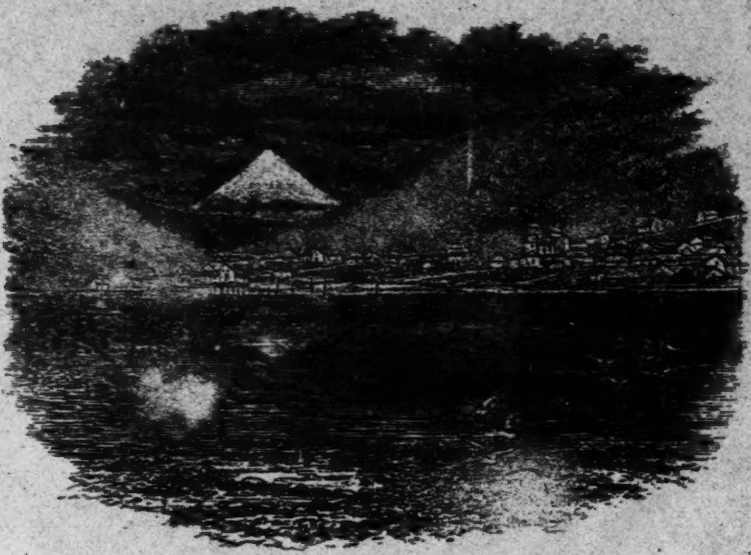
[1] A yourt is a semi-subterranean winter dwelling, roofed with turf. The balagans are only used in summer: they are rough wooden buildings erected on piles. The upper part serves as the dwelling-house, while, beneath, the salmon are hung up in rows to dry.

361 houses may be reckoned at about one-third of that number. Kittlitz,
161 in 1829, found the settlement to number about two hundred inhabitants, and at the time of our visit we were informed that there were over three hundred; a number that I should myself be inclined to think overstated.

133 Standing on the now deserted sand-spit,—the natural break-
361 water of the harbour,—the view of the little town and its surroundings is strikingly picturesque. To the left is the wooded promontory, the scene of the unfortunate disaster which occurred to the forces of the Allied Fleet in 1854. On the right a hill of some fifteen hundred feet dominates the town, whose log huts are clustered around the shores of the little bay. Here and there a white-painted house of greater pretension strikes the eye, and a stunted grove of trees shelters the church, and the graveyard studded with Russian crosses. Behind the town, artistically filling in the gap



PETROPAULOVSKY HARBOUR.

133 between the hills, rises the snowy cone of Koriatska; and the storehouse
361 of the Alaska Commercial Company, painted the dull Indian
103 red that is so favourite a shade throughout Sweden, forms a
609 pleasing patch of colour in the foreground. It did not take us long
to make acquaintance with Petropaulovsky, in spite of its imposing
name. The inhabitants, we found, called it Petropaulsk, and, in
short, showed every disposition to make things easy for their
visitors. Salmon and bilberries were sent off to us, and, on our
remarking upon the presence of cows, a supply of cream and
441 butter was not long in following. Society here is limited, the
643 Europeans being but eight or ten in number. Mr. Lugobil, the
563 local head of the Alaska Commercial Company, resides here, and
712 superintends the shipping of the sealskins from Bering and Copper
R Islands; as does Captain Hunter, the cheery agent of Phillippeus
and Company, another firm of fur-traders. Of stores (the American
177 term is in use here) there are but two. One of them was owned
.64 by a kindly old Swede, who also acted in the capacity of Mayor.
He had not visited his native land for thirty years, and it was
evidently a source of the keenest pleasure to him to talk of it to
one of us who knew it, and loved it almost as much as he did himself.
The town is now no longer a military post, and the barracks
and fortifications, razed to the ground by the English in 1855, have
never been rebuilt. The entire authority is vested in the Ispravnik,
whom, in spite of the exigencies of his profession, we did not find
averse to the seductions of trade. A Russo-American Jew, better
known as the King of Kamschatka, of whom the Russian Government
was extremely anxious to get rid, completed, with Dr.
Dybowski, the list of Europeans of the sterner sex. The ladies
were only four in number.

757 With Dr. Dybowski, who has acquired a European fame as a
115 naturalist, it was a pleasure to make acquaintance. His life had
R been an eventful one. Imprisoned in Siberia for some time for taking
177 part in the Polish insurrection, he had eventually been pardoned
.75 and made government doctor of Kamschatka, in which capacity he

211 There are no roads even in the little settlement itself, and,
361 from the irregular distribution of the houses, and the equally
363 irregular ground on which they are built, the traveller has to
493 pick his way from one to another as best he can. It is needless to state that wheeled vehicles are, in consequence, unknown. The church, an uninteresting-looking building, painted white, is practically the only public edifice.[1] Near it, and at the bottom of Mr. Lugobil's garden, stands the little monument erected to the memory of Bering. It is an iron column of no great size or taste, which was sent hither years ago from St. Petersburg, and, half buried in the lush grass which at this season of the year grows so freely in Kamschatka, it looked melancholy enough. It is a cenotaph, for the bones of the celebrated navigator rest far away upon the island that bears his name. A monument to Captain Clerke, the successor of Captain Cook, is, I believe not far from it, but we did not see it. The town is, indeed, somewhat rich in these objects of melancholy interest, for in a gap in the western promontory, once the site of an old battery, the dilapidated remains of a memorial column to De la Perouse is still to be seen; while on the sand-spit at the entrance of the harbour, an erection less pleasing to the eye of an Englishman is conspicuous, commemorating the success of the Russians against the forces of the Allied Fleet in 1854.

I must confess that, previous to our visit to Kamschatka, I had been in entire ignorance of the affair that resulted in such disaster to our forces. But little known or commented on at the time, it has probably long ago passed out of the memory of most of those of the past generation; while, owing to the success with which the matter was hushed up, it had but little chance of becoming known
175 to the present. In the action of the 24th August, 1854, we suffered a defeat as humiliating as it was ridiculous, and one for which, from the circumstance of our attack having been made on a

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[1] At the time of Lessep's visit, in 1787, there was no church in the settlement, but he alludes to the former existence of one, and mentions that its situation was known "by means of a sort of tomb which formed a part of it."

[Petropavlovsk--Analyst]

132 at the base of the low range of hills bounding the plain,—the finger-marks, as it were, of the icy grip of winter.

231 We reached Narchiki early in the afternoon, and were greeted
361 by the prolonged howls of innumerable dogs. Though the village
boasts of only six huts, there are over one hundred and fifty of
these animals to pull the sledges of the inhabitants by day, and
to endeavour, in combination with other equally hungry, though
happily smaller creatures, to disturb their rest by night. The
sledge-dog, indeed, appears to do without sleep, and anything
more hideous than their nocturnal concerts it would be difficult
to imagine. Fortunately an open-air life and hard work are not
generally compatible with insomnia, and after a few nights the
traveller would be more apt to miss his music than to abuse it.

133 Narchiki is placed on a little branch of the Avatcha River,
136 which is here not more than eighteen inches deep. Standing upon
226 its banks we began for the first time dimly to realise the vast
numbers of fish which must annually visit the country, and which
may be said literally to choke its rivers. Hundreds were in sight,
absolutely touching one another; and as we crossed the river our
136 horses nearly stepped upon them. Their back fins were visible as
226 far as we could see the stream, and aground and gasping in the
shallows, and lying dead or dying upon the banks, were hundreds
more. The odour from these decaying fish was distinctly perceptible at a distance of a couple of hundred yards or more. In weight these salmon varied from seven to fifteen and even twenty pounds. They were for the most part foul fish,—blotchy with patches of red and white, and of the kind known by the Russians as the Garbusa;[1] but others in fair condition were to be found, and with a little trouble I was able to pull out three good ten-pound fish in as many minutes with a gaff. Any other method of fishing would have been useless. It would have been nearly impossible to make a cast without foul-hooking a fish, and nine-tenths, or more of them, were in an uneatable condition. Had we wished to do so, we

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[1] *Salmo proteus* of Pallas.

231 go along, an annoying habit of which it was impossible to break
them. Their ordinary load is from six to seven pood.[1]

133 It was not long before the presence of some large poplars ahead,
361 combined with certain whiffs of decaying fish, to which no description
can do justice, warned us that we were in the neighbourhood of a
491 river; and the howls of sledge-dogs presently greeted us as we
arrived at the settlement of Gunal. We found some of the inhabitants engaged in making a bridge,—really a very creditable affair, as the river here is about twenty-five yards broad, with a channel some six feet or more in depth. Above the village this stream—the Bolchaia-reka, or Great Bolcheresk River—splits into two or three branches, which reunite a quarter of a mile lower, after having received two rapid, but shallow little affluents from the west.

144 Gunal is a most picturesquely-situated little hamlet of about
161 twenty huts, and has a population of ninety-four souls, who are
177 all, without exception, the descendants of Russians who established
361 themselves here with Kamschatdale wives in the last century.
The latter people are now rare as a pure race, excepting upon the
771 western side of the peninsula. The Gunalians are all Christians,
793 and have built themselves a church,—a small log-cabin surmounted
with a cross. Within the same enclosure, but separate, just as in Northern Sweden, is a little belfry with a single bell, time-worn and defaced. Owing to its inaccessibility, we were unable to read the inscription with which it was adorned. The church is parsonless. There are but three popes for the whole of the vast district lying between Petropaulovsky and the mouth of the Kamschatka River. Here the nearest is at Melcova, a hundred versts or more away; and once in every four months he comes in, marries and buries such of his parishioners as need it, holds service, and departs. He has not much to do, for the people are both apathetic and long-lived. In the little churchyard hard by there were scarcely twenty graves. They were marked by Russian crosses with a little

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[1] A pood is equal to 36 lbs. English.

000 pretentious type, but possessed, nevertheless, of a quiet beauty so perfect in its kind that the most fastidious of critics would have sought no alteration. Below our camp the river clattered between its banks of yellowing birches towards some snow-capped mountains that distance had painted a deep violet. The village, grey, battered and weather-worn, as are all these northern hamlets, nestled at the foot of the three peculiar peaks of the eastern range of the valley. Not a human being was to be seen, and the smoke of our evening camp-fire rose like a straight blue pillar into a golden sky. Around us was a stillness that could be felt,—the wondrous silence of the North; and on the summit of the little cross above the church a crow sat motionless in the evening sun,—a speck of steely blue against the snow beyond.

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Gunal, with its enormous stores of salmon, seemed, like all these Kamschatkan villages, a place of considerable size. A nearer acquaintance, however, soon dispelled the illusion, and we noticed that a large proportion of balagans seemed to be used as storehouses rather than dwellings. These buildings, which differ from the fish-sheds only in having a living-room at the top, and being consequently rather more solidly constructed, are rudely made of white poplar or birch trunks, pines being comparatively unknown in this part of the country. There are rarely more than two—at most three—tiers of fish drying beneath, for the sledge-dog is an active and ever-hungry animal, and six feet would be a dangerous height at which to suspend a salmon. The roof is high-pitched, and the thatch secured by means of light poles tied transversely across it. The entrance, a low door in the gable, is reached by a sort of ladder specially contrived for the humiliation of the unwary. It is merely a notched pole, placed loosely against the building, and not secured in any way; and the incautious European attempting the ascent is somewhat astonished to find the pole rapidly revolving, leaving him clinging back downwards 000 and discomfited. This simple arrangement, if capable of being put in action at will, might possibly be of considerable utility to those

Of the number of sables killed annually in Kamchatka it is
224 difficult to form an estimate. The greater portion no doubt are
438 exported *viâ* Petropaulovsky, this port draining the large extent
434 of country in the region of the Kamschatka River, but a good
563 many must find their way to Bolcheresk, and some others to Tigil, a
settlement in the northern part of the peninsula which has only a
difficult communication with the villages on the lower part of the
Kamschatka. In Petropaulovsky almost all the skins pass through
the hands of the "King of Kamschatka,"[1] and the number exported
by him for the season of 1882 was over two thousand. The profit
on each skin probably averaged at least forty shillings, and it must
be allowed that, however gloomy the outlook in Hudson's Bay and
elsewhere may be, there is at least one part of the world where the
fur-trade is not "played out."

We left camp again on the morning of August 30th, and after
two hours' travelling came to the little village of Puschina, if
village indeed it can be called. It now appeared that Vodki's plan
had been to get us on to this place if possible, partly because he
preferred a hut to tent life in wet weather, and partly, according to
161 Afanasi, because he was afraid of the bears. Puschina consists of
177 three huts only, with the usual proportion of fish-drying sheds,
361 and boasts of a population of fifteen souls. In 1787, according to
Lesseps, it was larger than Gunal. The inhabitants appeared dirty
and miserable creatures, and were more of the true Kamschatdale
type than any others we had yet come across. One or two of the
huts or storehouses were raised above the ground on pillars, and
much resembled a Norwegian *stabur* in appearance, except that
there was a complete absence of carving. It is rare to see any
settlement in Kamschatka which is not placed actually on the
banks of a river, but Puschina, standing two or three hundred
yards away, is one of the exceptions, probably owing to the fact
that the banks of the stream are here very low, and the rise of the
river during the period of the melting of the snows is often very
considerable.

We rested our horses and obtained a draught of fresh milk

[see page 74--Analyst]

114 remains of many half-eaten fish lay on the banks. The bears are
136 said by Kittlitz and others only to eat the head and upper part
when the salmon are plentiful, but in almost every case we found
that, though the head had been crunched up, it had, together with
the tail and intestines, invariably been rejected. We were never
fortunate enough to witness these animals fishing, but we were
told that they walk slowly into the water where it is about eighteen
inches in depth, and facing down stream, stand motionless awaiting
their prey. The incautious fish, swimming heedlessly up the river,
doubtless mistakes the bear's broad legs for a rock or tree-stump,
and those who have once witnessed the almost lightning-like
rapidity of a stroke from Bruin's fore-paws will have no difficulty
whatever in completing the drama for themselves. The fish is
apparently always taken to the bank to be devoured, for even
the small ones do not seem to be eaten whole.

552 Sherowmy, or Sherowm,—for the Kamschatkans are fond of
144 clipping the exuberance of their words, and turn Kamakoffskaya
157 into Kamaki,—is a pretty little village of nine houses and forty-
161 three inhabitants, situated on a branch of the Kamschatka River
close to its junction with the latter. To the south lie a few acres
177 of level grass and land enclosed by rough fencing, which give a
361 home-like effect and an air of permanence which is wanting in
most Kamschatkan settlements; while to the west and north flows
the river, its banks thickly clothed with trees. The people,
although a more or less mixed race, as are those of all the villages
we had hitherto visited, nevertheless exhibited strong evidences
of their Kamschatdale origin, and the high cheek-bones and
general duskiness of complexion were in some cases very noticeable.
They were very civil and willing to help us; and later in
our journey we learnt to hail the preponderance of the Kamschatdale
element with pleasure, for we then felt sure of meeting with
none of the surliness of demeanour and barefaced extortion that
seemed to be the leading characteristics of the half-breed Siberian
Russians.

136 yellow foxes (*Vulpes fulvus*), who sat inspecting us curiously as we
floated down, and were none the worse for their temerity. According to our hunters, these animals are not nearly as common now as formerly, though from what reason it is difficult to say, as the skin is of no great value, and they are in consequence not much hunted. Ducks of the kinds I have already mentioned were in great numbers, and the Merganser (*M. serrator*) also seemed fairly abundant. It was of course impossible for us to reach Werchni Kamschatka before nightfall, so, having made about forty versts, we landed on one of the broad pebbly beaches, where the spring freshets had already collected abundant firewood
252 for us, and pitched our camp. The Sherowmy men had a simple
but effective plan of cooking duck that I had never seen before. The bird is plucked with care, so as to leave the skin unbroken, and is not drawn. A stick is forced down the throat, and the other end stuck into the ground close to the fire. The effect produced when a party of a dozen are thus cooking their suppers is not a little absurd: it is as if the camp-fire had burst into a perfect girandole of naked ducks, who fly quacking from it in open-mouthed alarm.

We had hitherto been favoured with far finer weather than that usually to be expected during late autumn, but the next day dawned threateningly, and before long fulfilled its promise to the utmost. A pall of thick leaden clouds with ragged edges hung over us, and a steady downpour that showed every prospect of
161 continuance soon commenced. Hour after hour we paddled on
721 through the driving rain, and it was not until after mid-day that
361 we stepped ashore, wet and cold, at the hamlet of Werchni Kams-
chatka. Like most of these places, it is composed of a bare dozen
R of huts, with a total population of less than fifty souls; but it
177 enjoys the distinction of being the only settlement on the Kams-
.72 chatka River that is marked on the English chart of the country.
In bygone days it may have merited it, for it was one of the first *ostrogs* established by the Russians after their conquest of the

361 peninsula. Now, however, Melcova must be regarded as the
721 chief town of the interior, and its proximity—for it is only fifteen
241 versts distant—must always effectually keep its rival in check.
R We were glad to get warm and partially dried at the house of the
177 head-man before starting again for this latter place. Some few
.72 signs of cultivation were apparent: a few potatoes and turnips,
and a small field of rye, the first cereal we had met with since our arrival in the country. It looked miserable enough under the pouring rain, and probably had little if any chance of ripening.

133 Three more hours of rain and paddling brought us to Melcova.
136 It was almost too wet for shooting, but we noticed two or three
226 small parties of the red-necked Phalerope (*L. hyperboreus*) on our
passage. Those that we obtained were in autumn plumage, and were most probably on their way to warmer latitudes. But few duck were to be seen. They had in all probability betaken themselves to the marshes at the onset of the rain, and the river was devoid of life. Before reaching the village an elaborate arrangement of fishing-stakes gave warning of the presence of what in Kamschatka may be termed civilisation. The stakes stretched right across the stream from bank to bank, but we found a small gap at the side sufficient to admit of the passage of a single canoe, and capable of being still further enlarged by pressing down the stakes. The arrangement for taking the fish consisted in the construction of small *currals* at intervals of about fifteen yards. These were long bottle-shaped baskets on the lobster-pot principle, furnished with doors opening at the lower end, by means of which the fish could be secured by gaff or otherwise. We learnt that there were very strict rules with regard to the complete barring of the river at this spot. The inhabitants are obliged to leave a free passage for the fish at the time of their first arrival in the spring, and also on certain days in the week or month at a later period. But for this arrangement the people of Sherowmy and Werchni Kamschatka would of course be without means of subsistence during the winter months.

563/622 The head-man of the village received us on landing—a person of far higher class than any we had hitherto met, and apparently of unmixed Russian blood. He was the keeper of a small store, and owned a capital little log-built house, which we found uninhabited, and apparently intended for the reception of passing travellers. This he at once placed at our disposal. Tired and wet as we were, the prospect of pitching camp in a sea of mud was not a pleasant one, and breaking through our usual rule, we accepted his offer with pleasure. Before long we were enjoying the unaccustomed luxury of a chair, and were able to skin our birds in tolerable comfort for the first time since leaving Petropaulovsky.

167/563 241/361 R 177 .24 Melcova owes its origin to an experiment. With the view of encouraging the cultivation of the land and of making something more of the country than a mere hunting district, where the inhabitants caught enough salmon during the summer to enable them to go after the sables in the winter, a small colony of Russian peasants were settled here in 1743, who were to devote themselves entirely to agriculture. The result has been to a certain extent successful, for the community is a tolerably flourishing one, and with its population of over two hundred, is the most important settlement in Upper Kamschatka. It may, nevertheless, be doubted if the cultivation of the land has contributed to any great extent to its success, for, from the severity and uncertainty of the climate, the prospects of the farmer are as little encouraging here as they are anywhere, and there are probably the full average of sable-hunters in Melcova. But there are small fields and gardens, and a number of cows, which combine to give the place a more home-like and settled aspect than is usual in most Kamschatkan villages.

563 A great portion of our own interest in the place centred, I must confess, in the store. Here, in a space of about twelve feet by eight, we found flour, tea, sugar, candles, axes, and a few odds and ends for sale, but there were no sables or other furs as we had hoped. We had run short both of tea and sugar, and were

133 361 484 000 Losing sight of the range near Melcova no more mountains are seen, and Mashura, a village of fourteen houses and eighty-eight inhabitants, has but little to recommend it in the way of scenery. Excepting at the settlements no boat is ever met with, and voyaging on the Kamschatka is regarded by the natives as an affair of some moment. Our approach was accordingly heralded by numerous discharges of blank cartridge from the guns of our raftmen, and as we stepped ashore shortly after sunset we found the head-man awaiting us, together with a considerable proportion of the inhabitants. Anxious to prevent a "ring" between them and the men we had brought from Melcova, we approached the subject of canoes for our further journey as quickly as we could. But we had been anticipated, and we began to see that henceforward extortion was to be the order of the day in every case in which we were brought in contact with these people. They refused to sell us canoes, and demanded sixty roubles to take us on a distance of as many versts, —a rate which would have left us with empty pockets before we had got half way down the river. For a small birch-bark jar of milk they asked half a rouble, and charged in like proportion for other articles. In these cases, however, our line of action was simple. We took the things at once, placed them inside the tents, and paid what we considered the proper sum. They refused the money, and when we turned in for the night without having come to any definite settlement for the following day, the relations between us had become considerably strained.

142 144 164 177 361 Mashura was, in bygone days, one of the largest Kamschatdale settlements in the centre of the peninsula, but smallpox—the disease so fatal on its first introduction among uncivilised nations—broke out in 1767, and ravaged the country to such a frightful extent that it is said to have killed nearly three-quarters of the natives, and the village has since dwindled down to its present insignificant size. The people were short, but strong-looking men, with scanty beards and straight hair, which was either light or dark, according to the preponderance of Russian or native blood. Most

000 early dawn, with the thermometer below freezing, struggling in
an icy river with all one's furs on, but the unlucky bather was
soon ashore, and a sharp rub-down at the camp-fire soon restored
both his circulation and his equanimity. The day was once more
bright and clear, and the distant peaks looked magnificent in the
133 morning sun. As we drew nearer, the mountains opened out, and
the western slopes of Tolbatchinska no longer hiding Kojerevska,
the latter volcano appeared, from this point of view at least, as a
perfect cone of regular shape, which half concealed the equally
regular and still higher peak of Kluchefskaya, the king of the
volcanoes of Kamschatka. Other mountains too had come in view.
To the north and west of Kluchi,[1] but in close proximity to it, the
smoothly-rounded summit of Uskovska rose above the dark line of
forest, and far away to the eastward two isolated and nameless
cones of graceful shape appeared on the horizon, which, in spite of
their eight or nine thousand feet, are recorded in no map.[2]

133 At this part of the river the conspicuous marl cliffs disappear,
137 and the pines are replaced by aspens, a tree of which we had
361 hitherto seen but little. Landing in the afternoon to take photo-
graphs and observations, we came upon quantities of the *cherunka*
or wild cherry. The fruit is black, and of the size of a large
black currant; very sweet, but with a peculiar sloe-like astringent
after-taste. The delicious Scandinavian *moltebær* we did not
meet with, but our common raspberry and red currant are in some
places plentiful. The latter fruit is, in our English gardens,
scarcely worth eating, but in the wild state it is very sweet and
palatable.

Eleven hours' steady paddling brought us, at 6 P.M., to three deserted balagans, without fish, and with nothing to indicate the presence of a human being save four canoes hauled high and dry upon the bank. We learnt that Tolbatchik, a village that we

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[1] To the natives, with their love of contractions, the great mountain is thus invariably known.

[2] These we have since named Mount Gordon and Mount Herbert Stewart.

133/361 expected to find here, is not situated on the Kamschatka, but upon a tributary stream which joins the main river some forty versts lower down. There is a short cut overland, however, and we settled to camp and despatch Jacof Ivanovitch to the village at daybreak on the following morning for a fresh relay of men. 000 Close to the camp we shot a large blue hare, the pats of which were very much developed, and clothed with the thickest fur. This, curiously enough was the only one we met with during the whole journey. The sunset was strikingly beautiful. The eastern sky was a deep purple, and the snowy peaks so bright a rose-colour, that no painter would have dared to transfer them to canvas. But the appearance of the weather was unmistakeable, and we set to work at once to dig deep trenches round the tents in anticipation of the coming rain.

The morning broke as we had foreseen. The wind had shifted to the south, and the rain descended with a steadiness that boded a long continuance. The dull leaden sky reminded us of our native land, and the heavy mist seemed to render even the inside of the tents almost as wet and chilly as the sopping grass without. The natives had retired to their tent, and Verglaski alone, slow and imperturbable as ever, seemed unaffected by the weather. Jacof had started early for Tolbatchik, and there was nothing to be done until his return. We went in search of birds, either for preservation or the pot, but hardly a living creature was to be seen, and a hobby, an owl (*Surnia ulula*), and a small thrush (*T. fuscatus*, Gm.) were the only specimens we obtained. The afternoon, however, was relieved from dulness by our natives, though in a manner that was anything but agreeable, for we found ourselves involved in a renewal of the endless wranglings and discussions of which we had already had more than enough. The Mashura men applied for their money, stating that they wanted to return. Four of them had gone back at Tschappina, but the other four had come on with us, and to these we tendered a sum exactly proportionate to that they had already received for the first part of their journey. This,

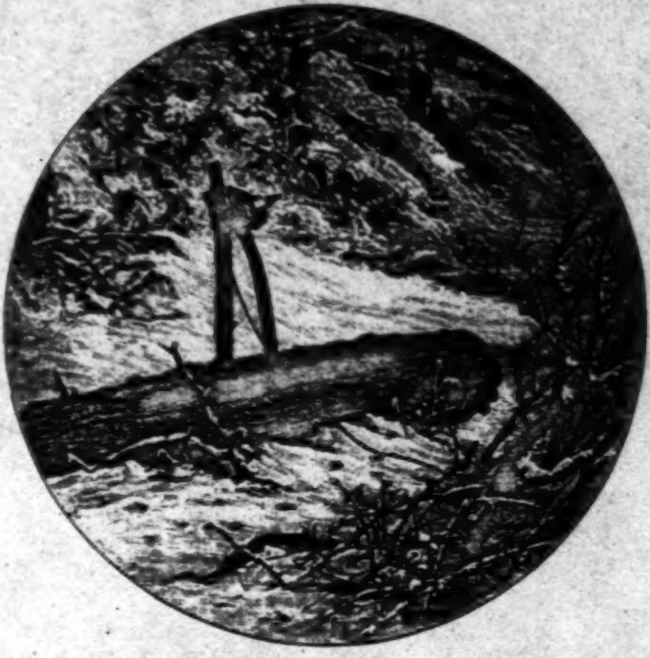
823/133 We felt that we had got among friends once more, and managed by
the aid of all these luxuries to pass a very pleasant evening, in
spite of the cold. At night the beacon flame of Kluchi, now
brilliantly illuminating the clouds of smoke that hung around the
crater, now sinking almost to extinction, shone out far above our
heads. There was an angry look about the volcano, and we were told
that its activity had of late been somewhat increased. The explana-
tion was simple. The Kanuli, or Spirits of the Mountains, whose
home is in the bowels of the volcanoes, had merely been more
fortunate than usual. It is hardly necessary, in these days of
omniscience, to explain that it is to these beings that all volcanic
disturbances are due. They go to the sea at night to catch whales,
which are their favourite food, and the roasting of several of these
animals within the crater is, as may be imagined, an operation which
requires the consumption of no inconsiderable amount of fuel.

000 The weather had become steadily colder from day to day, and
as we turned out on the morning of the 11th September we
regretted that the Spirits of the Mountains had not seen fit to do
their cooking in closer proximity to our camp. Our moustaches
were frozen to the blankets, and the water in the bucket inside our
tent was a sheet of ice. Morning observations and photography are
always interesting, but they are certainly best appreciated when
the thermometer is well above freezing. The view from our camp
was glorious, and the mountains, cloudless from base to summit,
towered above us with the startling clearness of outline so charac-
361/133 teristic of northern regions. Kojerevsky—a village of ten huts and
sixty-three inhabitants—lies at the foot of Uskovska, a mountain
of nearly 13,000 feet, whose summit from this aspect presents the
appearance of a uniformly rounded dome of snow. It is in reality
twenty-three miles off as the crow flies, but the giant scale on
which Nature works in these regions belittles space to an extent
that is inconceivable, until the hard facts of actual measurement
are before one. A little farther to the south and east is Kluchi,
whose sharp peak rises to a vertical height of 3½ miles above the

133 river, guarded on the right by Kojerevska, which is inferior to it in
361 altitude by fifteen hundred feet. To the extreme right lies Tolbatchinska, and above the intervening stretch of flat forest land the solitary peaks of the two isolated volcanoes I have before mentioned are visible some fifty miles away.

We had but little difficulty in getting the canoes requisite for

224



FOX TRAP.

constructing our raft upon somewhat less risky principles than the one that had, thanks to our good fortune, borne us the last seventy miles of our journey in safety. We reverted once more to our old plan of dividing forces, and late in the morning recommenced our voyage amid the firing of many salutes from the guns of the Kojerevskans, to whom we were really sorry to have to
000 bid adieu. At 4 P.M. we reached Uskovska, a hamlet containing

224/361 At 4P.M. we reached Uskovska, a hamlet containing thirty souls only. Landing to rest, we noticed here, for the first time, a fox trap of simple construction, which is said nevertheless to be very effective. A broad mortice is cut in an ordinary rough log, and in the longitudinal hole thus produced a spring is placed, composed of two pieces of raw hide twisted together, which impels a barbed prong. This is discharged by means of a trigger, to which a string is attached leading across the animal's usual track. Although Kamschatka is a country which would appear to be peculiarly adapted for trapping, it seemed to us that it was not undertaken to anything like the extent that might be expected.

000 We camped eighteen versts below Uskovska, in good spirits at the improved condition of our affairs and our rate of progress down the river. We had need of them, for after dinner, on inspecting our last case of photographic plates, which had been packed with all possible care in blankets, we found that the greater number of them had been broken to atoms. Such are the results of pack-horse travelling! Of the whole lot but two remained, and these, with one or two we had left over from another case, were all we had to last us for the rest of our journey! It was a cruel disappointment. We were in the midst of scenery which for magnificence was almost without parallel, and which we could never have a hope of seeing again. For some days the volcanoes, which at this season of the year are often invisible, had shown themselves without a cloud. And now, just as we were approaching them, and arriving at the very part of our journey of which we most desired to have a record, we were doomed to failure—a failure the harder to be borne from the fact that our limited time precluded any possibility of sketching.

It was blowing hard from the W.S.W. as we embarked at daylight on the following morning, and before long the wind had freshened considerably. The thermometer was not lower than usual, but the keen wind penetrated our garments and froze us to the bone. It was in our favour, and hoisting a portion of one of the tents as a sail, we sped along merrily. Soon, however, it became evident

000 that we could no longer continue our journey. Everything is comparative; and to our craft, with its low free-board and heavy load, the three-inch waves became more formidable than the heavy seas in a gale in "the Bay" appear to an ocean steamer. It would have been too absurd to founder in such a tea-cup storm, so we made for the shore, and set to work to cut down trees till we had to some extent restored the circulation in our limbs. An hour or two later the wind dropped, and we were able to proceed. We noticed the signs of some old forest fires near this spot, but they seem, happily, to be very rare. In Scandinavia, in a journey of the length that ours had been, we should have seen fifty or more. Here the great precautions that are taken against their occurrence are no doubt the chief reasons for their infrequency. Our hunters told us that the sables do not return to these spots for many years after, even if the forest has been but slightly injured by the fire.

361 Late in the afternoon we passed the hamlet of Kristovsky, or
133 Kristi as it was called by our men, and a few versts farther came
484 upon some people encamped upon the banks. It is curious how
little the rivers are used as highways either during the winter or
summer. The natives can hardly be said to travel at all, excepting
in their winter excursions after sable. This was only the second
party we had seen away from the settlements, and we were
told that no one had passed down the river from Melcova that
year. We shouted greeting as we passed, but there was no time
to stop, as we wished to reach Kluchi that night. Our Kojerevsky
men worked their paddles with a will, and before long we reached
the mouth of the Yelofka River, a large stream, eighty yards or
more in width, which joins the Kamschatka on its left bank. It
flows due south, draining the western slopes of the great Sevelitch
volcano, and is used as a road to Tigil, a settlement on the river of
that name in the north-west part of the peninsula, which is, or used
to be, a trading station of some importance to which the Koriaks
133 and Tchukchis bring in their furs for sale. The river is ascended
by canoes for fifty or sixty miles, the watershed is then crossed by

000 last rays of the sun and flushed a pale pink, while at the lip of the crater a fleecy puff of smoke hovered for an instant as if in doubt, and then floated out a long thin streamer to the east. Around his shoulders hung a thick belt of cloud, gathering rapidly with the fast-approaching night, and beneath, slope after slope rose steadily up to meet the pyramid above. Kojerevska showed here and there a patch of glistening snow through rifts in the dense veil that hid him from our sight, and on the lake-like surface of the river below our little fleet of boats paddled merrily homewards to the rough and mournful cadences of a Kamschatkan love-song. Suddenly the flame of the first salute shot out from the other raft, the signal for a general fusillade. It was answered by a flash and a report from the village; and a little later we stepped ashore at Kluchi, and were welcomed heartily by the head-man and a little crowd of the inhabitants.

133 / 137 / 361 The morning of September 13th broke with hardly a cloud; and the view of the mountains, which now lay nearly due south of us, was so magnificent that I did not hesitate to devote one of my last plates to it. We crossed the river in a dug-out, and landed on a sand-bank near the opposite side. The stream is here six hundred yards in breadth, and forms a fitting foreground to the picture. Behind the village, whose weather-worn huts line the banks for nearly a quarter of a mile,—for Kluchi may be regarded almost as a city in this part of the world,—the even slopes of ruddy vegetation rise smoothly upwards, till, at the height of two
133 or three thousand feet, the snow is reached. The outline of the mighty volcano was as perfect here as before, and its exquisitely graceful slope as unbroken. Near the summit, on the side immediately facing us, a deep furrow, as yet untouched by the rays of the morning sun, showed the remains of some past eruption—a huge scar which the snows of many winters had done their best to obliterate. From the crater light puffs of smoke drifted slowly away to the east, far whiter than the snow which lay below, for on all sides, and especially near the summit, a sprinkling of ashes had

161 Emerging from the eastern entrance of the narrows we found
133 ourselves passing through a flat, uninteresting plain which extended
361 as far as the sea. Here the scenery is scarcely more interesting
than that at the mouth of the Thames. A cold wind swept over the
dreary reaches of the river, and behind us an ink-black sky gave
warning of approaching bad weather. At 4. P.M. we passed Nischni
or Lower Kamschatka, once the capital of the peninsula, a village
of some importance with twenty houses and a church, and a popula-
tion of 150. It lies a little way off the main river upon a smaller
stream, and just opposite, upon the other bank of the Kamschatka,
the Raduga, a river about forty yards wide at its mouth, flows in
000 from the south. A canoe shot out to intercept us as we passed,
bringing a letter for Petropaulovsky from the Kluchi pope, who had
left that village just before us on the preceding day, and shortly
afterwards we saw another boat paddling hard after us. We
stopped to let it approach, and soon recognised Jacof, whose gloomy
face told us that Verglaski had not been found. He had apparently
gone down the river for some distance, and had then turned back
and proceeded towards Kluchi. Here the track had become
obliterated, and Jacof had been obliged to give up the search.
Poor old Verglaski; his quiet methodical ways had endeared him
to all of us, and Jacof was much distressed at his loss. In the
summer he would have had no difficulty in finding enough to subsist
on, but at this season hardly any fish were left, and the settlements
being so far apart, and upon the other side of the river, it was more
than doubtful if he would ever have a chance of reaching one of
them.

Paddles were once more resumed, and we were discussing the advisability of proceeding to the mouth of the river without stopping, when we perceived the smoke of a steam launch in the distance. By our glasses we soon made her out to be a stranger, and all doubts as to the arrival of the *Marchesa* were thus at an end. She proved to be the launch of the walrus-schooner *Nemo*, bound to Nischni Kamschatka. She had on board the first officer—

000 The captain of the *Nemo*, who was a Swede, and spoke English with perfect fluency, enlivened our row home with his accounts of Saghalin, from which island he had just come. It is now a Russian penal settlement, which is only used for criminals of the worst kind. The discipline adopted, according to his account, was of extreme severity, and many of the prisoners preferred to take their chance of escape, and the almost certain risk of death by starvation in the bush, rather than endure it. In one case he mentioned, two of these unfortunate wretches escaped. One was caught almost immediately, and the other returned of his own accord at the end of some days, nearly dead from starvation. He was fed up until he recovered, and 100 lashes were then administered every day until one of the men died.

361 In Ust Kamschatka, it is hardly necessary to say, there are
neither gas lamps nor pavements,[1] and the state of the paths about
the settlement—if paths indeed they can be called—is indescribable
000 at this season. The captain, who was as good an amateur
doctor as he was a Samaritan, had asked me to come and see a sick woman he had been looking after, and we accordingly started at once in search of the hut. It was by no means easy to find it, and we stumbled about over stones and through swamps for some time in vain. In one of the latter my companion lost his boot, and though we expended all our matches in hunting for it, we never saw it again, and he had to see his patient in a condition that was, to say the least of it, unprofessional.

We had been bidden to a feast in the evening. To have one ship in the port was rare enough, but the presence of two was so unprecedented that it was felt that something must be done to commemorate it. A ball was accordingly resolved on. The Swedes sent various intoxicating drinks, as became their nation; and the supper-table groaned with Kamschatkan delicacies—cranberries, brick-tea, and cold ducks. The ballroom was not lofty, and the

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[1] Perhaps I may be wrong. I was once asked by a lady, in all seriousness, if the hotels in New Guinea were tolerably good!

000 Long before the huge paw had descended in a futile effort at revenge the little rascal was safely under cover, on the look-out for another opportunity, and the bear might just as well have attempted to catch a mosquito. A more thorough little pickle never existed, but, like all pickles, he was very popular, and when one morning he disappeared never to return there was great lamentation among our men. We never learnt his fate. Probably Misky had caught his tormentor after many months of vain endeavour, and had dined off him.

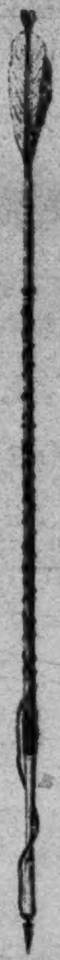
We left Petropaulovsky on September 26th with the intention of visiting the coast towards Cape Lopatka. Even as far south as Avatcha Bay the nights had become bitterly cold, and warned us to take our departure if we meant to avoid the heavy gales that visit these latitudes at the onset of winter. We steamed out of the harbour over a sea so calm that the glare of golden light which lit up the western sky was reflected in its surface as in a mirror. Never had the bay and its grand volcanoes looked more beautiful, and we stood watching the blaze of colour fading over the yellow birch-clad hills and the lonely pyramids of snow beyond until the last ray of daylight had disappeared and the full moon had turned the landscape to a harmony in black and silver.

361 133 501 Next morning a thick fog hid the coast from view, but cleared as the sun got up, and we were able to pick up our position. About noon we found ourselves off an island abreast of the Itterna Volcano, and steaming into a bay close by, we scanned the coast for signs of a sea-otter-hunters' village, of whose existence we had heard through Afanasi. Not a trace of it was to be seen, and we were beginning to think that we had misinterpreted our directions when a couple of little canoes shot out from behind a point and paddled towards us at a great rate. As these neared the ship we saw that they were built somewhat on the model of a Greenlander's *kayack*, although not broader than the narrowest of Thames cedar-wood canoes. How they can live in any ordinary sea is little short of miraculous, but we afterwards learnt from the people that two

501 or three boats invariably proceed in company when engaged in
133 hunting the sea-otter, and that during heavy weather they
361 lash them together with the paddles, by which means even
a moderate gale can be safely encountered.

The natives piloted us into a small bay which, protected as it was by an island[1] and a long reef running out from the mainland, afforded fairly good shelter in all winds. At the head of it stood the village, almost invisible at a little distance, composed entirely of underground yourts, whose smoke-begrimed interiors were not inviting to a European.
224 We had hoped to find many skins of the sea-otter here, but
411 were disappointed, the whole village only producing two; we became possessors, however, of what, though less valuable, was of more interest,—the bow and arrows with which these animals are killed. The former is a tough piece of wood five or six feet in length, which is enormously strengthened by a band of plaited hide on the outer face, so tightly fixed as to give the bow when unstrung a curve in the opposite direction. The arrows are of wood for three-quarters of their length, fitted with feathers attached diagonally along the shaft, so as to produce a rotatory motion. The remaining portion is of walrus ivory, provided at the end with a socket, into which a barbed copper point is inserted. This is connected to the arrow by a long string of plaited sinew wound around the shaft. When the otter is hit, the barb, which is very loose, becomes at once detached, and if the animal gain the sea, its whereabouts is revealed by the arrow floating above it.

501 The canoes used by these people are of extremely graceful shape, and so light that they can be lifted in one hand with ease. They are constructed of a wooden skeleton



SEA-OTTER ARROW.

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[1] This island, which is not marked in the chart, was named by us after Lieut. R. ff. Powell. It is in Lat. 51° 33′ N., Long. 157° 50′ E., and is about two miles in length. The coast at this part is placed too far to the eastward.

24: Lansdell-638 [2] M-2 (1879) 1882 Kamchadal
116, 133, 161, 226, 361

" The number of the Kamchatdales, strictly so called, is estimated at 3,000. Their capital is Petropavlovsk, the only town on the eastern coast of the peninsula. (1)

1. It is situated on the right shore of the splendid Bay of Avatcha, which may claim with Rio Janeiro and San Francisco to be one of the finest harbours in the world. It is perfectly protected from the winds, and, transplanted to a more favourable position, it might be one of the greatest of markets; but since the fishery of the whale in the surrounding seas has lost its importance, Petropavlovsk has sunk from a place of 1,000 inhabitants to one of 500. Mr. Dobell, who lived in the peninsula five years, says that he found there many dykes and mounds, from the existence of which he argues that the country was once thickly populated."

27: Sauer--291 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
361

"Twelve versts below Virchnoi Kamtshatskoi Ostrog, is the village called Milkovoi, inhabited by farmers sent from Siberia at government expençe."

27: Sauer--292 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 133, 137, 361, 563

"At Tolbalshinsk [CMC: mountain] the mountains are broken and barren; they encroach upon the valley, and considerably lessen its width. Storms are frequent between this volcano and that of Klutshefskoi, but never reach the neighbourhood of Milhovoi, and the trees are considerably less in size; but the country continues fertile as far as 30 versts north of the village Klutshefskoi, which is also a colony of Siberian peasants for the same purpose as those at Milkovoi, and who act in the same manner [CMC: see category 563, this source, p. 291]. Their proceedings are in some respects justifiable; for the magistracy at Neizshni exact the same payment from them as from the residentiary merchants. The court of justice conflicts of a burgo-master, four members, or rathmen, a secretary, writers, and watchmen; receiving a salary for the time they are in service: and frequently an expensive deputation is sent to Tigil, Bolshoiretsk, Virchni, and such places as are reported to by these pedlars; so that it is a matter of doubt with me, whether the culture of the earth would render any harvest sufficient to answer the payment of their claims. In some years they amount to 18 or 20 rubles, and in others half as much more."

27: Sauer--293 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 161, 361

"I have already mentioned the situation of the town Neizshnoi Kamtshatka, which contains 80 isba's, or houses, with two churches; and its number of inhabitants, including children, 548 souls; latitude 56° 33'."

27: Sauer--293-294 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal
116, 161, 361 Russia
636.71

"The villages on this coast [CMC: i.e., the western coast of Kamchatka] are, Tigilsk, Itshinsk, and Bolshoiretsk (situated on the Tigil, Itsha, and Bolshoia rivers). Of these the former is the most considerable, containing 45 wooden houses, and one church. The Russian charts place it in latitude 57° 55!. This, which they call a fortified town, is surrounded by wooden palisades, and was built in 1752. The num-[294]ber of inhabitants are 338, including women and children. Itshinsk also contains a church, and about 10 houses, with 50 inhabitants. Bolshoiretsk contains 37 houses, and the total number of inhabitants are 235. Beside these, there are eight inconsiderable villages, containing each three or four houses, on the west coast."

27: Sauer--296-297 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal-1-2
116, 133, 137, 361, 563 Russia
636. 71

"The little harbour of St. Peter and St. Paul is to the north [CMC: in Avacha Bay]: its south bluff cape is extremely conspicuous; and the buildings upon the spit of land before it are clearly discernible. This harbour is in every respect convenient for giving ships all kinds of repair, as also for obtaining fire-wood and fresh water. If all its good qualities are considered, I think it may be pronounced the most convenient in the world. Six or eight ships of war might be conveniently moored in it head and stern: the only inconvenience (if it may be so called) lies in the amazing toughness of the ground; for if the anchor be heavy, and out any time, it will probably be found necessary to heave a strain on the ship to weigh it. The south of the harbour is bounded by a narrow neck of low land running out from the eastern shore in a western direction, covered with wooden houses and balagans; at the extremity of which is the entrance, 38 fathoms wide, and six and a half deep: ships may pass so close to this point of land, that a man may leap on shore. The west side is a projecting narrow mountain of moderate height trending to the south, terminating in a bluff head, upon which it a battery of three guns, and a flag. [297] From this extremity a shoal extends south about 100 fathoms. The north, which is the head of the harbour, is bounded by a valley, in which are the government magazines, barracks, and the dwelling houses of the commander and chief inhabitants. To the east, it is bounded by lofty mountains covered with wood to the very summit; namely birch, mountain-ash, hawthorn, dwarf-cedar, rose-bushes, &c. On this side

27: Sauer--296-297 T-2 (1789-93) 1802 Kamchadal-2
116, 133, 137, 361, 563 Russia
636.71

are several springs of very pellucid water rushing down the mountains into the harbour, and these are very convenient watering places.

The bay is bounded to the north-west by the extensive plains of Avatsha, where two rivers discharge themselves into it; namely, the Avatsha and Paratounca. At the estuary of the former, the Kamtshadals, who formerly resided in the harbour, have their present habitations; while the troops of the garrison possess their late dwellings."

28: Sarytschew--61 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 133, 161, 361

"On the Koschka [CMC: a jutty of land at the entrance to Petropavlovsk harbor; see category 133, this source, pages 60-61] there are eight dwelling-houses, interspersed with several buloganen; or log-houses, and on the north shore of the haven are four, together with a wooden building for an hospital, and the store-houses built during the expedition of Commodore Behring, which are still in good condition. The number of the inhabitants is limited to eleven Kamtschadales, one ensign from the army, and 23 Kosaks. The country around the haven is mountainous, but the north and east sides have sufficient level ground for 300 houses."

28: Sarytschew--65-66 T-1 (1789-90) 1806 Kamchadal
116, 361, 563

"The fortress of Bolcherezsk, situated on the banks of the Bolschaja, has a church and thirty habitations. Its inhabitants consist principally of Kosaks, with a few merchants and citizens. Before the advancement of the fortress Nishne-Kamtschatzsk to the rank of a town, the first magistrate of Kamtschatka made this his place of residence; but now a serjeant is commander of the fortress. The Kosaks here are much more opulent than those of Petropaulowsk, almost all of them having their cattle and a good domestic economy. Their gardens are stocked with excellent turnips and potatoes. For the introduction of the latter vegetable they are indebted to counsellor Reineke, the former commander of Kamtschatka.

All the inhabitants here are usually dressed like the Kamt-[66]schadales, in narkas and kamlegas. The former are the skins of reindeer, cut into shirts; and the latter are skins of any kind, stripped of their hair, and made quite pliant. On holidays, the women wear a sort of silk gown of an old Russian shape, which was fashionable 60 years ago. They have also a speckled silk handkerchief about their heads.

In the first days of the new year, the inhabitants assembled every evening for the purpose of dancing. The women understood Russian dances very well, and what was still more surprising, could dance in the Polish fashion, and very passably even à la Grecque. The music consisted of three fiddles, played by Kosaks."

000 ter which, on a beautiful frosty moon-light morning, I resumed the journey over a picturesque and mountainous country, well wooded and watered. Late at night we reached a small place called Apachinsk, forty-five miles. Ere we arrived we had to cross the river called Bolshaya in a canoe, the river not being frozen, a circumstance at this time of the year very 361 rarely known. Thirty-miles farther we reached the 161 ancient capital of Kamtchatka, Bolcheretzk, now a small village containing fourteen dwellings, one hundred and sixteen inhabitants, and about thirty 000 balagans, i. e. sheds for drying fish. The path to it was over a flat level along the river. I was myself the driver towards the abode of my now father-in-law, whose homely manners, numerous, healthy, smiling children, and hearty breakfast, made ample amends for the fatigues of the last two days.

Bolcheretzk stands on the river of its own name, about fifteen miles from the sea of Okotsk, and has little to boast of at present but the affectionate remembrance the inhabitants bear to the memory of Major Behm, so highly spoken of by Captain King. I heard, also, strange stories of the celebrated Benjofsky, who made his escape hence to Canton, having previously murdered some people, and fomented an insurrection. I heard nothing in his favour, although an old lady, afterwards my aunt, 563 was a companion of his. I found Bolcheretzk to be inhabited by a civil people, all Russians: but 000 were it otherwise it might be expected I should

000 those I had, and then proceeded upon my journey, reaching by midnight Kickchick, twenty miles, a place of equal wretchedness with the last, and like it containing but fourteen or fifteen inhabitants, most of whom are disabled from work by disease. With the same dogs I reached Kolofsky ostrog thirty miles along the sea coast, upon which a tremendous surf was roaring with a strong north-west wind. There are in the neighbourhood several fine lakes which never freeze, and produce trout and salmon peal of a fine flavour during the whole of the winter. Deer, mountain sheep, and game of every description that is found in the Peninsula abound in the mountains and forests, and fine meadow lands every where skirt the coast.

133 I remained to take tea with the old Toion, whom
563 I found to be a fiddler and a scholar, and departed
361 for Vorofskoy ostrog, forty miles. The mountains now approached nearer to the sea-coast, and present some beautiful scenery. I put up at the abode of a wealthy Russian farmer, and felt highly gratified
161 in observing a small but fat herd of cattle. This is
361 considered a rich spot, yet it contains only nine
133 dwellings with about forty inhabitants, not enough to keep up the chase. The place is prettily situated on the Vorofskaya river, about four miles from the sea. There is a snug harbour at the mouth of the river, where the transports from Okotsk formerly visited, and the river is navigable to the village which retains the vestiges of a small fortress. The meadow lands about it are at once

133 extensive and luxuriant. The inhabitants provided
361 me with frozen fish, a delicacy I had so much en-
161 joyed on the Kolyma, with ducks and rein-deer
meat, as also with dogs to resume the journey, which
carried me to Kolpakofskoi ostrog, thirty miles,
along a dreary sea beach. The village contains six
dwellings and twenty people, who furnished me
with dogs to Kroutogorova thirty miles further, a
beautiful situation near the extremity of the al-
most level plane reaching from hence to Bolche-
retzk. The famous Sopka, i. e. burning mountain,
near Tchinsk, here becomes visible, and although
the country is so rich, not a head of cattle is to
be met with from Vorofskaya.

To Tchinsk are thirty miles of superior coun-
try, yet so deep in snow that we were obliged to
take it by turns to go a head with snow shoes, at
other times the government of a narte was thrown
upon me, which I at first made but a bungling
hand of. Tchinsk has twelve dwellings, it is
consequently a considerable place! there are also
two priests, brothers, whom I found drinking a
576 decoction of dried herb instead of tea. I felt
angry with the Toion who had let slip eight dogs
intended for me, and declined entering his dwell-
ing, the strongest mark of displeasure which can be
shown to these simple people. The poor fellow felt
the slight so severely as he saw me entering another
yourte, that I could not help regretting the deter-
361 mination I had made. To Soposhna it is thirty-
five miles, which I travelled in company with the

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361 reverend pedlers, for every body here is a merchant. I made them happy by a pound of tea, a
161
133 few pounds of tobacco, and a bottle of spirits. The road was very fine and the weather had much increased in cold, so much so, that the thermometer stood at 25°, which I had never before seen in Kamtchatka above 18°. Thence to Morososhna, thirty miles of a good road. The last named village may be termed large, containing eighteen dwellings and a hundred inhabitants, in the enjoyment of many luxuries, yet without cattle. Thence the road lay along the foot of the mountains, the scenery of which gives a relief to the eye as it is in general uninteresting all the way to Bolcheretzk, except at a few places. Upon the road to Belagolofsk ostrog, thirty-five miles, I got twice upset into the river without the means of drying or changing my clothes, and suffered much, in consequence, in my feet. I had a fine view of the magnificent Ichinskaya Sopka or mountain, which continued visible until I reached Khariuzova forty miles, the road to which is in general good, though there are some parts dangerous in the night time. The ice from the rapidity of the current, frequently sunk under us, but from our velocity of movement no accident happened.

437 At midnight I continued on for Kovranskoy os-
R trog, twenty-two miles. There is here a law oblig-
177 ing the Toions to have a path made within twenty-
.48 four hours after every snow storm. Our chief had failed in his duty in this particular, and conse-

487 quently was obliged to go before upon his snow
R shoes; and such was his diligence from fear of reprehension,
177 that he not only arrived before me, but
.48 arrived in five hours, a very short time to accomplish
such a journey upon snow shoes. I found it
the most miserable place I had seen for a long
period, reminding me of Zashiversk in northern
Siberia. The brows of the hills are covered with
brush wood, with little other appearance of nature.
133 From hence to Uskolofskoy ostrog are thirty-five
161 miles, which I was obliged to do by walking and alternately
361 driving a narte, and cannot say which of
the two is the most fatiguing. The diseases prevalent
in the place prevented almost any assistance
being rendered us. There are no cattle, yet fine
meadow lands. Fish and game are abundant. At
this place I met with another old shipmate in the
person of the brandy contractor, who accompanied
me to the next station, Napanas, a village with six
dwellings and forty people. The road leading to
it is considered dangerous, owing to a large toondra
or swampy desert which must be crossed; the distance
000 is forty miles. We passed the desert in a slight
fall of snow, which had not been sufficient to obliterate
the marks of the track, else we must have been
compelled to halt whenever the snow overtook us.
I did not arrive until two o'clock in the morning,
having been previously hurled down a snowy declivity
of one hundred feet in depth: at the bottom
of which, I, guide, dogs and narte all lay huddled
together; however vexed I felt inclined to

133 Tygil stands on the river of its own name, at
161 thirty miles from the sea. The country round it has
361 somewhat of the picturesque during the summer,
but its situation in winter is exposed and dreary. A
range of mountains from the NE to the SE defend
it in some degree from the coldest winds, yet it is
on the whole but a poor place. There are at pre-
sent twenty-seven dwellings and two hundred and
361 fifty inhabitants, and it is denominated a fortress;
181 formerly it may actually have been one, but at
R present will be best appreciated as to its strength
177 by a reference to George's Travels in Siberia, who,
.71 speaking of fortresses or ostrogs, the latter word
comprehending Siberian fortresses, says, "It would
be dangerous to attempt storming them, for who-
ever wanted to mount the greatest and only bul-
wark, a wooden paling, would most probably come
to the ground with the whole structure about him."
Such I am certain is the present state of Tygil,
and which, with its half dozen Cossacks, can only
be held *in terrorem* over the neighbouring Koriaks:
the Kamtchatdales are not a people numerically or
physically strong enough to create a disturbance.

361 The inhabitants of Tygil are all Russians, they
563 have of late got a church and the walls of an hos-
pital erected; when they are to be covered in I
know not, though shortly I hope, for they are
much wanted. The ravages of a certain disease
at this place are indeed dreadful, and I should
think ought to call forth the attention of the govern-

361 ment so far as to induce them to export doctors to,
563 and import priests from Kamtchatka. I mean no disrespect to those reverend gentlemen, but just to hint, as my opinion, that instead of the soul only, it would be better to take care of the soul and body at the same time. The average number of people annually admitted to the hospital books is three hundred and fifty, nearly twice its whole population, who are chiefly employed in fishing and trading with the neighbouring Koriaks or Kamtchatdales. The place also serves to keep up the winter communication with Okotsk. For the Koriaks will not furnish rein-deer or dogs to carry the post, unless they are remunerated by a present of tobacco, spirits, &c.

000 From what I have seen of the Koriaks, both in Tygil and in their encampments to the southward, I have no doubt of their being of the same tribe as the Tchuktchi; they have the same features, manners, and customs, and the same language—the same love of independence, and are, in truth, less scrupulous of giving offence to the Russians than their northern neighbours, for they frequently break out in hostility with the inhabitants of Tygil, unless a supply of spirits and tobacco is sent to them, for which, however, they barter rein-deer and furs.

132 The climate of Tygil is cold; already had the
563 thermometer passed 28° of Reaumur. The Cossacks however, contrive to raise a few vegetables, as po-

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563 tatoes, cabbages, turnips and radishes; but the two
137 former never arrive at complete maturity, the one
being waxy, and the other without a head. The
famous antiscorbutic cheremsha, or wild garlick,
abounds, as does a small but delicious root, somewhat
resembling a sweet potatoe, called, in the language
of the country, kimtchiga. There is also an
abundance of wild berries in the neighbourhood of
Tygil, yet their chief support is fish and rein-deer,
of both which I partook at the hospitable table of
000 the commander of the fortress. At the expiration
of four days I departed, having remained so long
to recover my feet, which had been severely frostbitten
from wet.

I was accompanied by the commander of the
transport lying in the Haven: he was what is
termed a good, though a droll, fellow; and I was
133 gratified with his society. Our route lay at first
361 up the Tygil, which from its source to near the
town runs through an interesting country. At
midnight we reached Sedanka, a small village,
containing six dwellings. From thence to Bolcheretzk
is called the Tygil coast, which, generally
speaking, is low and flat, the sea-coast being from
thirty to forty miles from the mountains. The
villages through which I had come were all of
them upon the banks of some small streams, which,
in most cases, rise in the mountains; but sometimes
they emanate from the lakes, which are
numerous. The rivers I do not apprehend to be

000 part of the evening we reached the Yelofka river, which unites not far hence with the Kamtchatka, running in a picturesque manner through the country.
361 At seven we reached the ostrog of Yelofka,
161 fortunate in having crossed the mountains so safely.

133 Yelofka is a pleasant village of eight dwellings and forty-six people, the country round it is elevated and well wooded. We remained only a few hours to refresh ourselves, and then continued the journey along the river of its own name, the banks of which afford some beautiful scenery for about fifteen miles. We then came to a desert which we crossed in a purga, fortunately not very heavy. At forty miles we reached the village of Khartchina of
000 five dwellings and thirty inhabitants. I was welcomed to it by a respectable looking old man, a priest, son to the highly eulogized priest of Paratounka. The son perfectly well remembered Captains Cook and Clerk; he having been at that time a young man, living with his father at the village of Paratounka. Several uninteresting anecdotes were related of them, as also of Perouse, in their rambles of shooting or chasing the wild animals. I had at Yakutsk been recalled to the remembrance of Captain Cook by a silver watch, which now belongs to Captain Minitsky, of the Russian navy, and which, I think, is spoken of somewhere as having been given away by that great navigator to some individual merchant. He probably disposed of it, and thus at last it has fallen into the hands of the pre-

000 sent holder, who, though I feel assured he appreciates
it highly, yet would not retain it, should relations,
or others more nearly concerned, express a
desire to be possessed of so valuable a memorial.

133 From Kharchina the route lies over a large lake,
137 and thence over a fine open country, abounding
361 with some of the finest fir-trees I have ever seen,
reaching to the height of sixty and eighty feet. At
twenty miles we reached the ostrog of Kamennoy,
on the right bank of the Kamtchatka, and, changing
dogs, proceeded twelve miles farther to Kamakie
136 over numerous lakes near the river. The country
361 here abounds with red foxes, and is certainly
one of the most picturesque parts of the Peninsula:
the beautiful view of the Sopka, or Peak of Cliuchie,
was hid in the clouds. I movedon to wards
Nishney Kamtchatsk, also an antient capital in the
Peninsula, a far more eligible place than the present
000 site. The weather had now become very mild,
no less than 3° of heat of Reaumur. We made
good about seven miles of our journey through
very deep snow by the ensuing morning. For three
hours we did not move forward more than one
mile, a heavy fall of snow had taken place, and it
was found impossible to proceed, owing to the extraordinary
heat of the weather. No track nor scent
offered to the dogs, otherwise I would have persisted
in the prosecution of my journey. The drivers,
however, with snow shoes actually sunk eighteen
inches deep in the snow, and I was therefore com-

000 pelled to return. We soon regained the ostrog we had left, and there we passed the night, witnessing such a scene of riot and drunkenness as is quite beyond my pen to describe. My companion had parted with a few bottles of spirits unadulterated, which, when they had operated, induced him again to launch out adulterated spirits, receiving, of course, a sable for each bottle. I was thoroughly convinced from this circumstance that Kamtchatka should not be supplied with spirits.

361 I was mortified at not visiting the town of
161 Nishney Kamtchatsk, and its port, but may say
137 that the former contains twenty-two dwellings,
and one hundred and fifty inhabitants, and the latter an accessible port, but much feared for want of being frequented. Formerly, when the seat of government was held there, vessels annually went to St. Peter and St. Paul's for provisions, but this is now no longer the case. Timber abounds in such quantities and of such a quality as should induce the government to fell and to export it to the present capital, where it is much wanted. I reached Cliuchie at midnight, having come over a few lakes
133 and a half frozen river. Cliuchie is a Russian pea-
361 sants' village, containing one hundred and eighty
563 inhabitants. It is pleasantly situated upon the right bank of the Kamtchatka, at the foot of the eastern termination of the lofty peak which is not far from it. This peak is said to be the most elevated in the peninsula, being about fifteen thousand

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133 feet above the level of the sea. It has frequently emitted flames, lava, and dust, but its summit was not visible during my stay in this respectable village of Christians. After the grand eruption which I had witnessed in the Island of St. Vincent's, in 1812, I could feel no regret at not being able to see one in Kamtchatka. It is true that little or no mischief arises from the volcanoes of this Peninsula, and they may therefore be more innocently and placidly seen and contemplated.

651 The amount of tribute paid by the peasants is
563 about ten shillings, formerly it was twenty; being
R reduced one half at the time the Kamtchatdale ya-
177 sack was reduced from two to one sable. The
.65 country is in every respect most luxuriant and beautiful, and were there a sufficiency of inhabitants, as well as of horned cattle, it would no doubt make one of the most desirable abodes in the world.
563 Wood of the first growth, fish in a most abundant
361 quantity, game of the finest flavour, and of various species, pastures inconsumable; a chase which yields foxes, sables, river-otters, bears, wolves, &c. of the finest specimens, are what Cliuchie has to boast. Vegetables are raised with greater facility than in any other part of the peninsula. Wild berries are very abundant, and some little rye flour is produced, though not of so ripe a quality as to be of much use; such are, in short, the claims of Cliuchie, that it should undoubtedly be made the capital of the peninsula, and I am only astonished

563 it is not so, considering how well its central situ-
361 ation is adapted for that purpose. A neat church
has lately been erected at the expense of the inhabitants,
who are in general disliked by the chiefs
and officers, owing to their resisting the payment
of individual yasack, or presents. This is surely
an enhancement of their character.

563 I quitted the village of Cliuchie perfectly satisfied
with the character and conduct of its inhabitants.
They preserve a great tenaciousness of their
rights, and detestation of the injustice shown to
their neighbours, the aborigines. To prove this
assertion, I need but mention that with these
Cliuchie peasants, I was obliged to pay in money
for the hire of the dogs which drew me; a circumstance
which had happened to me no where
else, and therefore carries the most undoubted
proof of exactions, extortions, and cruelty exercised
upon the most innocent and inoffensive peo-
132 ple in the world. My route lay from Cliuchie at
first over some small lakes, and then along the
banks of the Kamtchatka, which at this period of
the year, 14th December, O. S. is but half frozen.
361 At twenty-five miles I reached the ostrog called
161 Krestova, having three yourtes and twenty-four in-
164 habitants, nearly all of whom are confined by disease.
I continued on with the same dogs to Oushkielova,
thirty miles farther, having four habitations
and twenty individuals, most of whom also
are debilitated: indeed it is extraordinary what

164 havoc the introduction of the small pox, and another distemper, made at the ostrogs on the banks
000 of the Kamtchatka. Remarkably fine and extensive meadow lands, attend the traveller all the way from Cliuchie to Kozerofsky, as well as noble forests of timber; and there are seasons when cattle might maintain themselves during the whole of the winter, the snow being then of no great depth; yet there are but few heads of these necessary animals. The scenery to the southward along the banks of the river, is also of the most picturesque and sublime appearance. The magnificent peak soaring to the clouds has a fine effect when viewed from the bed of the river.

361 Kozerofsky, forty miles beyond Oushkielova,
161 contains five dwellings and thirty-six people, and is pleasantly situated. I continued along the river Kamchatka for twelve miles, and then along that of the Tolbachinsk to an ostrog of the same name for thirty miles more. The latter part of the journey was through a crowded forest, and a thick fog, which occasioned me some serious blows, as the dogs made their rapid progress; now and then starting at the scent of a fox or sable. Tolbachinsk is a pretty little village with thirty inhabitants, and appears to be on the improvement; the establishment is a new one and almost secluded from the world. Stchappinat was the next village I came to. It is upon the Kamtchatka, at a deep and narrow part of the river which was not yet frozen

137 enough to bear the nartes. I crossed two other small rivers by bridges for that reason. The scenery was very beautiful, a lofty range of mountains lay to the east with a good deal of fine timber, while the flat country is one fine uninterrupted meadow,
361 without a single cow to feed upon it. Stchappinat
161 has seven dwellings and fifty-two inhabitants, and,
136 it is said, the finest fish in the peninsula, though but
226 few are actually procured from it: they are considered so delicious that the inhabitants send them to the seat of government as presents to the chief and officers. The causes of their comparative scarcity are probably the depth and rapidity of the river, as well as the smallness of the nets; for unless the river be actually swarming with fish, it is seldom that the inhabitants can provide themselves with a sufficient supply.

137 To Massura are forty miles of a well wooded
361 country, and fine meadows upon the banks of the
161 river. I almost flew the distance, being scarcely
234 six hours in performing it. There are ten dwellings and sixty people, civil and hospitable to a proverb; a considerable quantity of cattle are in the neighbourhood, feeding on a rich pasture which runs to Kirgannick twenty-five miles further, where I got sight of the magnificent mountain scenery over hanging Verchney Kamtchatsk. One Sopka
361 (Peak) is especially remarkable. Milkova, a
563 Russian peasant village, ten miles distant contains fifteen houses and one hundred and twenty inhabit-

361 ants received me next, a neat place abounding in
563 cattle, if thirty or forty of them may constitute an abundance; there are however no animals of the chase. A handsome church has of late been erected under the auspices of Captain Golenistcheff, the second in command of the peninsula, whom I found expecting my arrival. I continued for Verchney Kamtchatsk, also a peasants' village, but was obliged to return owing to the inefficiency of the
361 dogs, although distant only eight miles; I at length
563 reached it much fatigued, having come through
R a pretty place called Schegatchik, where some Cos-
177 sacks are stationed to take care of a few heads of
.23 horned cattle, and four or five horses, which belong to the government. The situation is beautiful, on a branch of the Kamtchatka, which makes a semicircular indentation into the land, just opposite to Verchney Kamtchatsk, forming an island opposite to the junction of the Gatchick and Milkova.

000 I procured fresh dogs at Verchney, a place on the decline, and proceeded towards Sherom twenty miles, situated in one of the most romantic and enchanting valleys in the peninsula. I there met with the Ispravnick and eighteen nartes engaged for the collection of the yasacks, public and private, as well as for trade. I felt gratified to meet them, as I received good news of my affairs at the seat of government; and learnt also that there was a road before me to cross the desert, lying towards Malka. The Ispravnick had been detained four-

000 teen days in a storm, and he and all the party, men and dogs, were nearly perishing of hunger, having partaken of nothing but youkola (dried fish) for five days. Having exchanged dogs with another narte,
574 I continued on for Pouschin, twenty miles, and
576 arrived before noon. The Toion and I had a difference of opinion, which I shall ever regret, as it arose from my ignorance of the proper character of the Kamtchatdales. The poor man had heard of my coming, and had actually provided a good dinner for me, which I did not partake of, in consequence, of his not inviting me; another poor man actually did invite me, and I entered his more humble dwelling. The Toion was much surprised, and more vexed at this slight, which tended to lower him in the opinion of his subjects. The fact proved to be that the Toion is really one of the oldest Kamtchatdales, and was only complying with the ancient custom of the country, which is not to invite a stranger into his dwelling, considering that such stranger has the right not only to take it, but even to eject its owners. I left him with great regret that I could not stay another day to make him amends; I did, however, all I could, with this view.

133 Ganal, forty-five miles from Pouschin, a ro-
132 mantic country, we passed in high glee at the near
361 prospect of finishing my journey. The elevated ranges of mountains which form the Ganal Valley have all flat summits. To the valley succeeds a level

133 plane, very subject to storms and heavy falls of
132 snow. I reached the place at nine in the evening.
The inhabitants, amounting to thirty-two, live in
161 four yourtes, and are all afflicted with the disease
164 so common to the peninsula; and the contagion, and
262 want of medicine have been so great, that even the
361 children are equally afflicted, and the complaint of
scrofula is become hereditary. In this part of the peninsula the chase is scarce, and the inhabitants mostly subsist upon fish, a few mountain sheep, and wild rein-deer, being the only meat they taste from one end of the year to the other. The situation is fine and highly productive in fish, but at this moment there are not a sufficiency of people to transact the ordinary business; a circumstance which calls aloud for the compassion of the chief.

133 From Ganal to Malka are thirty miles, the first
361 ten of which are over a sterile mountainous country, which is more than compensated by the succeeding richness of a valley eighteen miles in length. I crossed several times the Bistra, a rapid stream, uniting with the Bolshaya Reka, and was again obliged to become pilot, chief, and dog-master; however, I managed very well, and arrived early. Malka is deserving of little notice, yet is said to be celebrated for its baths! The situation is magnificently grand; the hospital stands in the bosom of a lofty chain of elevated mountains at two miles from the village. I was welcomed by two old acquaintances, both of whom

[of Ganal village--Analyst]

000 with a file of English newspapers, magazines, &c. which employed me till the 1st of July, when we were ready to sail.

361 St. Peter and St. Paul's, the chief city of the peninsula of Kamtchatka, contains forty-two dwellings, besides fifteen edifices belonging to the government, an old church, and the foundation of a new one. Among the public buildings are to be reckoned magazines for bread, for powder, for sailors, for convicts, for wine, and for arms; a guard-house, smithy, hospital, chancery, school, and a building for the chief and his assistant. All, however, with the exception of the hospital, sailor's barracks, and school, are at best, like the rest of the city, emblems of misery and wretchedness. I have never seen even on the banks of the Frozen Sea so contemptible a place, hardly meriting the name of a village, much less that of a city; yet such is the place which has been so eulogized from one end of the world to the other. The erection of hospitals, of schools, of churches, and the diffusion of happiness, have been extravagantly vaunted of in magazines and reviews, in defiance of the most lamentable facts of a very opposite description.

563 I cannot imagine what a governor has to do in
609 such a place; a civil commissary would surely
631 have been enough. The only people, in my opi-
R nion, who can be called happy, are the Koriaks,
177 because they are independent. The Russians com-
.63 plain of being sent to such a vile place, utterly